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MEXICAN FOREIGN OFFICE

Diplomatic Dealings
of the
Constitutionalist Revolution
of Mexico

IMPRENTA NACIONAL, S. A.
AV. URUGUAY, NUM. 41.
MEXICO,

The documents included in this book are the most unequivocal and the strongest demonstration of the true spirit that moved the Constitutionalist Revolution as well as, later on, the Government of the Republic, in so far as its international relations are concerned. The patriotic programme initiated by the Revolution and closely adopted in all acts ever since, is clearly derived from such documents.

There is nothing extraordinary in a government manifesting itself scrupulously radical in all things connected with the national dignity and the national interests, since such action constitutes a prime duty; the Constitutionalist Revolution, when proceeding in the way shown by these documents, did not go a point beyond this duty. Nevertheless, it is proper to recall under what conditions the armed Revolution found itself at the time of the occurrences that gave origin to the diplomatic incidents herein related.

* * *

When the Benton and "El Desengaño" cases sprang up, the usurping regime of Huerta controlled the capital of the Republic and the greater part of the States; it had at its disposal all kinds of elements—money, arms, men, etc., and had obtained the recognition of almost all the powers of the earth. On the other hand, the Constitutionalist Revolution, although considerably extended and strengthened, was still far from winning its triumph; and even though it was for its own good to accommodate the foreign governments, the Revolution did not hesitate one moment to put aside such interest when demanded by the national dignity.

In these two cases, that of Benton and that of "El Desengaño," the United States Government had shown its intention to intervene in behalf of Great Britain and Spain, presenting certain claims to the Chief of the Revolution, who most emphatically refused to listen to any petition not made directly by the interested governments. The

argument was then offered that the diplomatic agents of Spain and Great Britain were accredited before Huerta, and there could not be another diplomatic legation of the same kind accredited before the revolutionary authorities. Señor Carranza did not allow any Government to mediate between Europe and Mexico.

Such position was certainly different from his attitude in the Bauch case—Bauch being a United States citizen; in this particular instance Mr. Carranza most willingly took up the Washington claims and gave orders to investigate the case with all expediency, thereby giving an ample proof of the Revolution's good faith and spirit of justice.

* * *

On account of an incident arisen at Tampico between some Huerta forces and United States marines, there was a serious clash between the Washington and the Huerta governments, and as a result thereof the American ships bombarded and took Veracruz. As soon as Señor Carranza became acquainted with these facts, he addressed a note to President Wilson, expressing that even though the conflict affected most directly the military forces of the Usurper, the United States soldiers had invaded the national territory, which did not belong exclusively to Huerta and his followers but to all the Mexicans, and he (Señor Carranza), in behalf of the Republic, protested against such outrage and would considered himself compelled to defend his country with the force of arms.

Under such circumstances the governments of Argentine, Brazil and Chile offered their friendly mediation to solve the existing difficulties in a peaceful and honorable manner. They proposed that a conference be arranged between delegates of the Constitutionalist Government, others of the United States and still other delegates from Huerta, to discuss, with the help of the mediators, not only the conflict originated by the Tampico incident, but all other troubles of a national character dividing the Mexican people. Señor Carranza refused to accept such suggestion, stating that he could not allow any foreign governments to meddle in our domestic affairs, because it would be against the national dignity and would also establish a dangerous precedent.

One must bear in mind that when this mediation was offered, the armed struggle was carried on under very difficult circumstances on the part of the Revolution, while the Usurper had at his disposal all the resources he needed, and yet, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army maintained his attitude, giving no heed to the flattering insinuations of those who wanted him to reach a favorable agreement with the politicians who usurped the government of the Republic. He then repeated what he had always declared: that he would ad-

mit nothing but an absolute and unconditional surrender, because any other agreement would be against the national interests as eloquently proven by the Mexican History. Consequently, no point of agreement was reached with the South American Governments.

Some time later the Constitutionalist Revolution finally won its victory over Huerta; it extended its control to cover the whole country and marched on the port of Veracruz, previously succeeding in its negotiations to have the United States forces established there leave the Mexican territory by orders of their Government.

Still later, when the White House was about ready to recognize a "De Facto" government in Mexico, the American Administration through its Secretary of State, the Ambassadors of Argentine, Brazil and Chile, and the Plenipotentiary Ministers of Bolivia, Guatemala and Uruguay accredited at Washington, addressed themselves to the First Chief Señor Carranza, as well as to the other leaders of the Constitutionalist Revolution, and to the enemy chiefs, calling them all to a conference where an agreement would be reached by means of mutual concessions. Señor Carranza again declined such mediation because it meant intervention in our domestic affairs and also because any settlement would finally be against the Mexican Nation; the military chiefs under his command answered the American Government stating that the First Chief of the Revolution was the only official duly authorized to deal with foreign governments. Shortly afterward the United States recognized Señor Carranza as the "De Facto" government of Mexico.

* * *

It is necessary to recall the domestic conditions under which the Constitutionalist Revolution acted in the way we have just described. First, the Revolution had for its enemy the numerous army of Huerta, scientifically led and abundantly provided; later on arose the infidience of the Northern Division, where distinguished soldiers and chosen officials conducted the movement with the help of a strong group of intellectual people; that faction held cordial relations with more than one foreign official of prominence, and it had under its grasp a large portion of the Republic. In the meantime the Revolution, legitimately represented by Señor Venustiano Carranza, was confined to a minimum part of the national territory; it had a little army and its files had been deserted by many. Despite such unevenness prevailing along various lines, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army and his co-workers did not hesitate one minute, and their attitude before the Mexican people and before the foreign observers was the same that would have been adopted by a perfectly consolidated government full of resources and with sufficient means to impose its will and demand respect from the nation as well as from any foreign powers.

Thus the Constitutionalist Government held high with the greatest firmness, the rights of Mexico as a sovereign State, free and independent, and thus performed its main duty from an international point of view.

* * *

The main rebellious factions had been crushed in 1916; the Constitutionalist cause had won a complete victory all over the national territory; the United States Administration had recognized Señor Carranza as the "De Facto" Executive of Mexico, and everything seemed to assure that normality would soon be resumed and that Mexico's relations with the outside world would constantly improve. Under these circumstances, a small band of rebels led by Francisco Villa raided the American territory, attacking the town of Columbus, annihilating the garrison and committing all kinds of crimes. This originated, as one might suppose, a serious international incident; however, both governments, acting within a spirit of conciliation and justice, tried to solve peacefully so great a difficulty, and to prevent any further similar occurrences.

As something had been said about the conveniency of authorizing the reciprocal sending of troops from one country into the other, on account of a misunderstanding of the case, even before the formal establishment of an agreement to that respect, United States forces constituting the so-called punitive expedition entered our territory in pursuit of Villa. The Mexican Government immediately protested against it, and diplomatic conferences were held to solve the conflict. During such conferences Mexico always stood for the same radical criterion it always upheld in regard to its sovereign rights. The American delegates went so far as trying to discuss Mexican domestic affairs, but our representatives emphatically said that they were not empowered to discuss anything but the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Punitive Expedition, which finally left our territory. In order to obtain this, Señor Carranza and his co-workers had been ready to stand anything except the indefinite stay of foreign troops on our soil, even peremptory war measure were adopted, and the conflict had not been averted if it had become necessary, despite the fact that Mexico was exhausted after five long years of constant struggle, and was poor, lacking in resources, and subject to divisions.

* * *

When the European war broke out, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army solemnly declared that Mexico would remain neutral in the great conflict, and the Nation has firmly kept its attitude through many vicissitudes and incidents. It could not be otherwise, since Mexico needed peace and reconstruction works after such a

long internal strife, and, on the other hand, Mexico had no grudge to bear against any of the contending powers, nor any vital interest compelling her to take up arms on any side. It did not suffice to make us change our attitude, the fact that the majority of the countries which did not take arms from the beginning of the war were at last one after the other dragged into it. Mexico has been, and shall most firmly remain, neutral, dealing with all the belligerent nations, moved by the same spirit of justice and friendship.

* * *

It is not possible to form an exact idea, without having witnessed it, of the extreme poverty and the very serious difficulties met by the Revolution. There were no arms or ammunition, nor money to buy them, and when any amount was available great obstacles would arise, almost unconquerable, in the way of importing such elements. Little by little Señor Carranza obtained a certain amount of independence from outside in regard to war supplies, and a real success has now been finally achieved along this line; but during the struggle this problem constituted a grave preoccupation.

The enemy not only fought us with arms and in our territory, but he also spread in foreign countries all kinds of false reports and captious informations to diminish the prestige of the Revolution's efforts. While we had no access to some places, the reactionary leaders were admitted freely in the foreign offices of other countries and got in touch with many influential people beyond our frontiers, to belie us and to strengthen their own position. In short, the Revolution had to overcome many difficulties of the most varied character and the most serious nature. Only because it was a fair and patriotic cause, and also because it was conducted by men of firmness and straightforwardness, could the Revolution win its overwhelming victory.

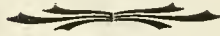
Considering the circumstances under which took place the diplomatic actions herein described, it has not been possible to gather as many documents related thereto as we would have liked to offer: such documents were issued now from this point and then from another; at times lacking even the most necessary office-goods, so that no copies could be kept or the copies made were mixed with other matters and went astray. No wonder, then, that this publication is not as complete as our desire would have it. For instance, nothing is more eloquent as a proof of the patriotic and valiant spirit of the Revolution, than the attitude assumed when obstinately pressing the United States Government to evacuate Veracruz; and, most unfortunately, some of the documents touching this case are missing.

The Mexican Government publishes this book to leave to posterity and to History an unquestionable proof of the fact that the

Constitutionalist Revolution, led by Señor Venustiano Carranza, performed under all circumstances the high duties imposed on him by patriotism and the national dignity.

CANDIDO AGUILAR.

Mexico, September 1st, 1918.



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ACUÑA, Lic. Jesús.—Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the Constitutional Army.

AGUILAR, Gral. Cándido.—Chief of the First Eastern Division,
.. Governor and Military Commander of the State of Veracruz,
and Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

AGUIRRE BERLANGA, Lic. Manuel.—Governor of the State of Jalisco.

ALVARADO, Juan.—Foreign Secretary of Spain.

ALVARADO, Gral. Salvador.—Governor and Military Commander of the State of Yucatán.

AMADOR, Lic. Juan Neftalí.—Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs from March 15th to August 10th, 1916.

ANDRADE, IGNACIO.—Foreign Minister of Venezuela.

ARREDONDO, Lic. Eliseo.—Confidential Agent of the Constitutional Government and Ambassador of the United States of Mexico to the United States of America.

ARRIETA, Domingo.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

ARRIETA, Mariano.— do. do. do. do.

ARRIETA, Rossi Reyes.—Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.

AVILA, Fidel.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

BELL, Gral. G.—Commander of the American Forces at El Paso, Texas.

BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO, Gral. José.—First Usher of Ambassadors.

BONILLAS, Ing. Ignacio.—Assistant Secretary, Department of Public Works. Delegate of the Mexican Commission to the Atlantic City Conferences, and Ambassador to the United States of America.

BORNO, Señor.—Foreign Secretary of Haiti.

BOTERO, MANUEL B.—Foreign Minister of Uruguay.

BRYAN, W. J.—Secretary of State of the United States Government.

CABRERA, Lic. Luis.—Secretary of Finances and Public Debt, and President of the Mexican Commission sent to the Atlantic City Conferences.

CALDERON, I.—Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia to the United States of America.

CALLES, Plutarco Elías.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

CARDOSO DE OLIVEIRA, J. M.—Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil to Mexico, in charge of the Anglo-American interests located in Mexico.

CAROTHERS, G. C.—Consular Agent at Torreon before the Revolution, and official Agent with Villa subsequently.

CARRANZA, J.—A Major General in the Constitutionalist Army.

CARRANZA, VENUSTIANO.—First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic.

CARRERA TORRES.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

CASTRO, Gral. Jesús Agustín.—Governor of the State of Oaxaca.

CHAMORRO, DIEGO M.—Foreign Minister of Nicaragua.

DANIELS, J.—Secretary of the Navy of the American Government.

DENEGRI, Ramón P. de.—Mexican Consul at San Francisco, California, at one time in charge of the Mexican Embassy at Washington.

DESVERNINE, Pablo.—Secretary of State of Cuba.

DIEGUEZ, Gral. Manuel M.—Governor and Military Commander of the State of Jalisco.

ELIZALDE, Señor.—Foreign Minister of Ecuador.

FABELA, Lic. Isidro.—Assistant Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, acting Secretary.

FLORES, Gral. Angel.—Governor of the State of Sinaloa.

FREYMAN, Enrique.—Mexican Chargé d'Affairs in the Argentine Republic.

FUNSTON, General Frederick.—Commander of the United States forces occupying Veracruz.

GAMA, D. de.—Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil to the United States of America.

GARAY, Señor.—Foreign Minister of Panamá.

GARCIA, Andrés G.—General Superintendent of Mexican Consulates in the United States of America.

GARCIA, VIGIL M.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

GARZA, José Z.—Mexican Consul at Brownsville, Texas.

GARZA PEREZ, Lic. Ernesto.—Assistant Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office of the Constitutionalist Government.

GARZA, Reynaldo.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

GAVIRA, Gabriel.— do. do. do. do.

GRAY, George.—United States Commissioner to the Atlantic City Conferences.

GRAY DE FALLODON, Viscount.—Foreign Secretary of His British Majesty.

HAY, Ingeniero EDUARDO.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

HERNANDEZ FERRER, Antonio.—Mexican Chargé d'Affairs in Cuba.

HOHLER, Thomas B.—Chargé d'Affairs from Great Britain in Mexico.

HUTCHINSON, Mr.—British Consul in Veracruz.

JARA, Heriberto.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

LANE, Franklin K.—United States Commissioner to the Atlantic City Conferences.

LANSING, Robert.—Secretary of State of the American Government.

LAZO DE LA VEGA.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

LETCHER, Marion.—American Consul at Chihuahua, Chi.

LEFEVEIR, E. T.—Foreign Secretary of Panama.

MARTINEZ ALOMIA, Salvador.—Chief of the Special Diplomatic Commission sent by Mexico to Central America.

MARTINEZ DE SOUZA, LUIS.—Foreign Minister of Brazil.

MARTINEZ SUAREZ, F.—Foreign Minister of El Salvador.

MENDEZ, Joaquín.—Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala to the United States.

MILLAN, Agustín.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

MOTT, John R.—United States Commissioner at the Atlantic City Conferences.

MUCEL, Gral. Joaquín.—Governor and Military Commander of Campeche.

MURATURE, JOSE LUIS.—Foreign Minister of Argentine.

NAFARRATE, Gral. Emiliano.—Governor of the State of Tamaulipas.

NAON, R. S.—Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the United States.

NATERA, Pánfilo.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.

OBREGON, Gral. Alvaro.—Secretary of War and Navy.

OCHAGAVIA, SILVESTRE.—Foreign Minister of Chile.

PANI, Ing. Alberto J.—General Director of the Constitutionalist Railroad Lines and Mexican Commissioner to the Atlantic City Conferences.

PARKER, Charles B.—Representing the American interests in Mexico.

PATTERSON, G.—Foreign Minister of Cuba.

PEÑA, Carlos María de.—Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay to the United States of America.

PESQUEIRA, Roberto V.—Financial Agent of the Constitutionalist Government in Washington. (October 1913 to March 1914.)

POLK, Frank L.—Counselor for United States Department of State.
PUEYRREDON, H.—Foreign Minister of Argentine.
RICAUT, Alfredo.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.
RIVA AGUERO, Señor.—Foreign Secretary of Peru.
ROGERS, James Linn.—Special Representative American Government.
ROJO, Lic. Juan B.—Secretary to the Mexican Commission sent to the Atlantic City Conferences.
SANJINES, V. E.—Foreign Minister of Bolivia.
SANTOS, Samuel M.—Secretary of the Convention held at Aguascalientes.
SCOTT, Gral. Hugh L.—Chief of Staff of the United States Army.
SERRANO, Francisco R.—A General in the Constitutionalist Army.
SILLER, Lic. Alfonso M.—Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs (November 13th, 1916, to February 12th, 1917.)
SILLIMAN, John R.—United States Vice-Consul at Saltillo, Coahuila, and Special Representative of the American Government before the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico.
SIMPICH, Frederick.—United States Consul at Nogales, Sonora.
SORIANO BRAVO, E.—Chargé of the Mexican Consulate at El Paso.
SUAREZ MUGICA, E.—Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile to the United States.
SUAREZ, Marco Fidel.—Foreign Secretary of Colombia.
TOBAR Y BROGONA, Señor.—Foreign Secretary of Ecuador.
TOLEDO HERRARTE, Luis.—Foreign Secretary of Guatemala.
THURSTON, E. W. Paget.—Chargé d'Affairs from Great Britain in Mexico.
URDANETA, E.—Consul General from Venezuela in Mexico.
URQUIDI, Ing. Francisco.—Mexican Consul at New York.
URQUIDI, Juan F.—Secretary to the Confidential Agency of the Constitutionalist Government at Washington.
URUETA, Lic. Jesús.—Assistant Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office of the Constitutionalist Government.
VASQUEZ, Mariano.—Foreign Secretary of Honduras.
VILLA, Gral. Francisco.—Chief of the Northern Division of the Constitutionalist Army.
VILLARREAL, Antonio I.—President of the Convention held at Aguascalientes.
ZUBARAN, Lic. Rafael.—Confidential Agent of the Constitutionalist Government at Washington (April 1914 to April 1915.) Also Secretary of Interior.

I.
PROEMIAL

No. 1.

TELEGRAM. (1)

Ramos Arizpe, February 26th, 1913.

Mr. Taft, President of the United States of America:

The rashness of your Government in recognizing the illegitimate regime Huerta is trying to establish upon treason and crime has brought a civil war on the State of Coahuila that I represent, which soon shall involve the whole country. The Mexican Nation condemns the villainous military coup which has deprived it of its constitutional rulers, but we know that our institutions still stand and we are ready to support them. I hope that your successor shall act with more regard for the social and political interests of my country.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA,
Constitutional Governor of Coahuila.

* * *

No. 2.

A PROCLAMATION TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE..

In view of the probable consequences of the armed conflict going on in the States of Coahuila, Sonora and others which are bound to

(1) Taken from the important historical work entitled "Legal Origin of the Constitutionalist Revolution," written by the clever jurist, Mr. Manuel Aguirre Berlanga.

be involved in it against the so-called government of General Huerta, I wish the American people to judge the justice of the cause defended by the Governments of said States and by a great majority of the people of other Mexican States.

After thirty-five years of the Diaz Dictatorship, the Mexican people did not want to suffer it any longer, and by the general uprising of 1910 that ruler was deprived of power; elections were held and the most spontaneous manifestation of the popular will ever seen in Mexico since the days of the Independence, raised Francisco I. Madero to the Presidency of the Republic, as he had been the leader of the democratic struggle against General Diaz's Dictatorship.

The components of the fallen regime did not agree with the new one, and three times they attempted to overthrow Mr. Madero by means of revolutions; but the Nation was on his side and all his enemies' efforts proved fruitless.

The non-conformists, in their impotence, resorted to bribing the Army, and they achieved their purpose so far as part of the Mexico City garrison was concerned, which rebelled against the legally constituted Government. The President then intrusted to General Huerta the command of the forces to crush the rebellion, disregarding the fact that General Diaz had relegated Huerta to oblivion on account of his lack of dignity and morality; yet, Mr. Madero had always favored and honored him. And Huerta has acted most ungratefully, and has stained for ever the history of our Army. General Huerta joined the rebels of Felix Díaz, a nephew of the ex-Dictator, and he captured the President, the Vice-President and the Cabinet, and then communicated this woeful news to all States, reciting the crime against our institutions in the following message: "Authorized by the Senate I have assumed the Executive Power of the Nation, the President and his Cabinet being in prison." Such behavior of the Army to banish the Government of the people, brought on as a natural consequence the non-recognition of the State Governments of Sonora and Coahuila, which disavowed at once the so-called Government of General Huerta as being the result of a treacherous "Coup D'etat," and such attitude on our part originated the armed conflict now devastating again our country, and which will have no solution but by means of arms, since those of us who believe that right must prevail upon might do not consent to the restoration of the Dictatorship, which would be now greatly worse than ever before.

In view of the above I ask the American people and the United State Government: If the happenings occurred in Mexico City had taken place in Washington, and a military chief had captured the President and the Vice-President, and murdered them, assuming afterwards the First Magistracy of the Nation by the force of his armed soldiers, would the American people and Government follow a different course to the one adopted by the Sonora and Coahuila Governments? I think not. The usurping President would surely

have remained in power much less than twenty-four hours before the people had cast him away.

I hope, therefore, that the American people finds our present struggle against the so-called Government of General Huerta perfectly justified, and will forgive us for the damages they may suffer in their interests on account of the strife we have got into against our will.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

Piedras Negras, April 4th, 1913.

* * *

No. 3.

Eagle Pass, April 21st, 1913.

To His Excellency Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, Washington, D. C.:

I am informed from Laredo, that the military authority at that place permitted the importation into Laredo, Mexico, in behalf of General Trucy Aubert, Chief of the Huerta forces, of two machine guns and five thousand rounds of ammunition. Since the illegitimate Government of Huerta has not been recognized by Your Excellency, I judge that said General and his military chief should be placed in conditions less advantageous than mine, since I am the Constitutional Governor of the State and at the same time I am the chief of all the Constitutionalist forces of the Republic which have denied recognition to the regime emanated from the military outbreak, and on that account the Government under my charge believes that if it has been permitted or permission is granted hereafter to import arms and ammunition from the United States for the Huerta forces, an equal concession should be granted to the Constitutionalist Government of this State I represent, as well as to the authorities and chiefs struggling now for the re-establishment of legal order in Mexico. This request being granted, all the parties contending in the war now involving Mexico will be placed on equal footing, which is perfectly fair. Therefore I appeal to Your Excellency's Government requesting it to grant me permission to import arms and ammunition in sufficient amount for the troops of the legal order I represent, without the authorities of that country opposing any obstacles. Please excuse, Mr. President, if my Government addresses itself directly to Your

Excellency, even though this is not proper form to do it, since I am just a State Governor, but I could not do it through the Foreign Office of my country, for I do not recognize the Huerta regime as legal.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA,

Constitutional Governor of Coahuila.

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No. 4.

TELEGRAM.

Monterrey, N. L., June 29th, 1914.

Mr. Rafael Zubaran, "The Burlington,"

Washington, D. C.:

Your kind code message of yesterday at hand. I am wiring to the Editor of the *New York Herald* the following: "I happen to know that in the paper you are conducting several stories have been published to the effect that the Constitutionalist movement is being fostered by the United States Government, with a view of benefiting certain American negotiations down in Mexico. The Mexican Government will always keep its actual part in the Mexican National Lines, and this First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army will never recognize negotiations carried out without the Constitutionalist Government being duly represented. I wish everybody to know, on account of the stories inserted in the *New York Herald*, that the Constitutionalist Government I represent as its First Chief that I am, has contracted no obligations either with the Government of that Nation or with any other government; that I have never received any financial help from foreign governments or citizens, and, finally, that from the very inception of this strife only national resources have been used to keep it up and carry it on to victory."

Please see to it that this is widely published.—Greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

II

“EL DESENGANO” CASE

(Doc. No. 1.)

TELEGRAM.

Nogales, Sonora, January 19th, 1914.

General V. Carranza,

Bama, Sin.:

My Government instructs me to ask your protection in behalf of "EL DESENGAÑO" mine, which belongs to Spaniards, Mexicans and one American, located in Durango. Spanish Minister informs that by orders of Villa the Mayor of Guanacevi intends to confiscate said mine.

Frederick Simpich.

American Consul.

(Doc. No. 2.)

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army received your telegram dated the 19th inst., in which you ask protection for the mine "El DESENGAÑO", which belongs to Spaniards, Mexicans and an American, adding that the Spanish Minister informs that the "Presidente Municipal" (Mayor) of Guanacevi, Durango, obeying orders from General Francisco Villa, intends to confiscate the same.

In due answer to your said telegram and by instructions of the First Chief, I must say that all claims or observations regarding foreign property have to be addressed to the First Chief himself through this Foreign Office by the diplomatic representatives from the country which the complaining foreigner belongs to, provided the said rep-

representatives are duly empowered by their Government to present such observations or claims.

I express to you once more the assurances of my high consideration.

Liberty and Constitution. Culiacan, Sinaloa, January 27th, 1914.

(Signed) FABELA,

Assistant Secretary, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 3.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—WASHINGTON, D. C.,
March 2d, 1914.

Frederick Simpich, U. S. Consul, Nogales, Mexico:

Dear Sir:

The Department acknowledges receipt of your note No. 289 dated February 9th, 1914, regarding the protection of the mine "EL DESENGAÑO" located at Guanacevi, Durango, property owned mainly by Spanish subjects. In said note you tell us that the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the Carranza Cabinet made known to you that it is absolutely necessary that all claims and demands of these foreigners be directly made to General Carranza through his Secretary of Foreign Affairs by the representatives of the countries they belong to.

The Department has received this answer with grief and fear, and its fear would augment to a large extent if there were the certainty that such answer was given you after a serious consideration of the delicate situation its practical application would necessarily create. The Department, however, is still hopeful that the consequences of that determination were not given the due consideration, and that General Carranza, after thinking it over, will not wish to increase the difficulties and obstacles met at present by the foreign governments and subjects as a result of the anomalous conditions now prevailing in Mexico, neither will compel these governments to overcome any new and serious complications.

The foreign powers have, as they can have, just one body of diplomatic representatives in the Mexican Republic, and these representatives are located, as General Carranza knows well, in the City of Mexico, which is the Capital of the Republic. That city is in the hands of the Administration presided over by General Huerta, who actually exerts control, North and South, over a number of States of the Republic. Under these circumstances, it is equally difficult for the diplomatic representatives found in Mexico City to present their

claims to General Carranza, as it would be difficult in the contrary case to address their representations to General Huerta. Such being the conditions, the consular representatives of the foreign powers, including those of the United States, have, in conformity with the customs and necessities created by the situation, addressed unofficial representations to the local authorities in the territory under the control of General Carranza and the forces recognizing him as their chief. Nevertheless, at several places of the Mexican territory, other countries besides the United States have no consular representatives, and unless such representations can be made, in behalf of these foreign citizens, though the American Consuls, such claims would have to be completely abandoned.

Claims thus made, through United States Consular Agents in behalf of other foreigners, are strictly in accordance with precedents and the International Law. It is a common thing for the consular representatives of a country to act in an unofficial manner in behalf of the citizens or subjects of other countries. This is practically a measure of daily occurrence, in times of peace as well as in times of war. To forbid the granting of the friendly favors would be at all events a deplorable act; but in the conditions Mexico actually goes through, such prohibition would have a character of extreme seriousness and might most probably even provoke a feeling of anxiety. The United States Government has exerted up to the present all its influence to avoid that the foreign powers adopt coercive measures for the settlement of their claims against Mexico; and in doing so it has corroborated its influence by means of its example. But it is now compelled to feel the greatest anxiety in regard to the situation which would undoubtedly be provoked if the announcement were made as a final determination of General Carranza that within the limits of the territory where he exerts control, claims for the protection of foreigners and their interests can only be made under conditions that forbid, in an evident and absolute manner, such claims and petitions.

It is useless to say that such representations are made within the same friendly spirit that has moved this Government up to the present, and the State Department cannot doubt that General Carranza, with his intelligence and the rightfulness of mind characterizing him, will resolve that the United States Consuls be authorized in the future, as they have been in previous times, to lend their help and good offices to other foreigners in the territory under his control.

I repeat myself,

Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Signed) BRYAN.

(Doc. No. 4.)

Honorable Frederick Simpich, United States Consul, Nogales, Sonora:

Please make known to the American Government and the British Ambassador that the regrettable happenings unavoidably derived from our actual civil strife, are a consequence of the grave error committed by certain foreign powers in having extended recognition as legal President of the Mexican Republic, to Victoriano Huerta. That, however the Benton case may have occurred, the necessary investigations shall be made to proceed in full accordance with justice; but make them take notice of the fact that no matter how important that case may be, it cannot be compared in any way with the assassination of the President and the Vice-President of the Republic, outrages which did not receive the due attention of various nations, England amongst them, as it seemed to be their duty, since they did not even care to learn the truth of those happenings, having recognized as Constitutional President of the Mexican Republic the murderer of the people's rulers.

In the Benton case, the Government will accept the claims made in due form, provided they are fully justified, whereas in the case of the assassination of the President and the Vice-President of this country Mexico has no claim to make against the foreign countries, most specially England and Spain, which very particularly intervened in that crime through their diplomatic representatives in Mexico City.

It is necessary that the foreign powers do not forget that, according to law, they have no right to make representations to the really Constitutional Government of Mexico, since they have not recognized it nor have they given it any international personality, whereas they extended recognition to the usurping government of Huerta, the murderer of President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez; and not only that, but they even have shown hostility towards the Constitutionals, England exerting all her influence upon the United States to make this country alter its friendly policy; and a great part of the Spanish subjects residing in the Republic having lent financial help to the usurping government and even aided in its consolidation with the force of arms. Countries acting thus, committing the greatest of all the international wrongs of modern times, should have no right to present claims for unfortunate happenings of which they have been the cause by their own attitude.

I thank you very much for the trouble you took to yourself to come to this town to show me the letter addressed to you by the Secretary of State Mr. Bryan, in regard to international incidents resulting from the civil war.

As you know, the State Department at Washington, through you and through Mr. Louis Hostetter, American Consul at Hermo-

sillo, has addressed itself to me several times, making two kinds of representations, both unofficial, some in regard to American citizens, and others referring to non-American foreigners.

As you bear witness to, I have accepted the representations that said Department deemed proper to make when referring to your fellow-citizens, but I have not accepted those representations made through the State Department in regard to citizens or subjects of other countries, using such representations, nevertheless, as information to correct and avoid the damages such claims allude to.

In his note to you, Secretary Bryan says, in regard to the damages suffered by "EL DESENGAÑO" mine at Guanaceví, that the countries which have recognized the Government of Huerta cannot address themselves to me, since each nation can only have one diplomatic mission accredited in another country, and consequently, such countries that have recognized Huerta, are unable to make representations to me. It is evident that I understand it to be so, and I have never thought that such countries should have diplomatic representatives before my Government. However, those same nations could present their unofficial claims to me, as the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am, since I control a large portion of the country. This is not forbidden by the International Law nor by diplomatic usages, and this unofficial form can be observed by the foreign powers through their representatives at Washington or by means of their consuls residing in the Mexican territory controlled by the forces under my command. And in the cases cited by the Honorable Secretary Mr. Bryan in connection with "EL DESENGAÑO" mine of Guanaceví, that is, if there be no foreign consuls in the territory covered by the Constitutionalist powers, then the respective governments may authorize other people, who might as well be the United States Consuls, to make unofficial representations in behalf of such governments, but extending them an authorization in due form—for I see no obstacle, frankly speaking, to such foreign nations addressing themselves to me that way.

As for the rest, all the claims I have received and those I may receive in the future in regard to foreigners of any nationality but American, will only serve me as a source of information, if I were not advised before by the Mexican authorities on the fact that such or such foreigner has suffered some damage, which I then shall see to prevent, commanding my subordinates to keep order and give full individual guaranties to all foreigners, punishing, if proper, those responsible for transgressions of any kind, those who, breaking the law and disregarding their duty and my orders, may molest in the least any foreigner; all this without need of awaiting representations from any power, since one of the main finalities of all my endeavors is to implant in my country the fullest respect for justice and the law.

Furthermore, it seems timely to say on this occasion, that if the very foreign subjects interested in a case, or their relatives, should address themselves to me making private representations and requesting protection for their lives and interests, they would immediately be attended to, there being no need of their governments taking any official or unofficial action in the matter.

Agua Prieta, March 12th, 1914.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.



III

THE BENTON CASE

(Doc. No. 1)

Chihuahua, February 21st, 1914.

General Venustiano Carranza:

URGENT.

Tuesday 16th inst. Britisher William C. Benton tried to assassinate me in Juarez City, but thanks to the quickness with which I acted, succeeded in disarming him, personally, and delivered him to a court-martial for trial, which condemned him to death. On this account enemy press in United States is making great scandal. Said Benton, besides attempting against my life, has committed various crimes under protection of Terrazas, and I sincerely believe that the Council's sentence was absolutely justified. I inform you on the matter that you may prevent false reports. Respectfully.

General Francisco Villa.

(Doc. No 2)

First telegram from Bryan (dated February 24th, 1914.)

On February 19th, at the request of the British Embassy, the Department gave instructions to American Consul at Juarez to interpose his good offices in case of William Benton, a man who had gone to visit Villa the 17th of February. Another telegram was sent on that same day to Mr. George C. Carothers to do the same. Carothers, representing the Department at El Paso, wired on February 19th as follows:

"Villa informs that Benton is not arrested. Says he is suspicious Benton takes part in a plot to kill him. I believe that Benton will be held until to-morrow, when Villa marches southward, and then will be set free. Shall continue investigation. Hope he is not dead."

The Consul asked for Benton's body. Villa answered he could not allow the corpse to be taken out at present but would do it later on, and promised to show the grave. On the 22d a similar telegram was sent to Chihuahua. The following day Carothers was ordered to urge upon the delivery of Benton's body. On the 22d of February the Consul at Juarez informed that Villa refused to give up the corpse. Yesterday Carothers wired the same. Unofficial do make a representation before Carranza upon the conveniency to order that Benton's body be unburied and delivered at once to his people or to the Customs Collector at El Paso. The corpse will afford better and more possible evidence of the occurrence, and the non-deliverance of the corpse is being taken as ground for the charge that the Court-Martial was played after Benton's death. We are doing all we can to ascertain facts, and the British government hopes we shall do so. Answer immediately by wire.

(Signed) BRYAN.

(Doc. No 3)

Second telegram from Bryan (Dated February 27th, 1914.)

If Carranza complains because we have applied to Villa, please explain to him that we have acted in this case like in all others whether the incident takes place in territory under his control or in territory under Huerta. We first have made representations before the local authorities, hoping to obtain immediate action, and then we apply to the higher authorities. Villa has consented to allow the inspection of Benton's corpse, and presuming that Carranza would approve of this we have arranged the trip, but we wish the special approval of Carranza and the assurance of protection to the party, which will include the British Consul. We still entertain the hope that the corpse may be delivered to the widow. Assure General Carranza that we appreciate the efforts he has made to protect lives and property of foreigners.

(Signed) BRYAN.

(Doc. No. 4)

Answer given by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army to the first and second telegrams of Secretary Bryan, addressed to Consul Simpich in regard to the Benton case:

1914 FEB 27

In response to the unofficial representation made by yourself yesterday in behalf of the Department of State of the United States Government, I must say that:

I have already advised you oftentimes, in order that you informed your Government on it, that if the First Chieftainship in my charge is wanted to consider demands or claims relating to foreigners residing in this country within the zones under the control of the forces I command, said claims and demands must be made by the representatives duly authorized by their respective nations, addressing them to me, as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am, through the Foreign Office adscript to this First Chieftainship.

Consequently, in full accordance with the line I always follow, I tell you that I am in the best disposition to receive the representations that may be brought to me on account of the case of William Benton, a British subject, provided it is dealt with by a representative of Great Britain.

Apropos of this matter, I deem it proper to say again, to make clear the spirit of justice moving the Constitutionalist Government, what I have said to you, to other United States authorities and to the public through the press:

The Constitutionalist Government acknowledges to all the foreigners, according to the Decree of May 12th, 1913, the right to present claims for damages and injuries they may have suffered and continue to suffer during the present civil strife, that is, from the 19th of February, 1913, up to the re-establishment of the constitutional order, with the understanding that the Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, does me full justice in his second telegram of yesterday addressed to you when he express his appreciation for my efforts in protecting lives and property of foreigners residing in the Republic, who strictly observed their duties as neutrals.

I must make you notice very specially, for you to call the attention of your government to this point, that the representation you made yesterday in regard to the Benton case is the first one I have received, for the claims and representations that have been made in this case were presented to minor authorities of the Constitutionalist Government, who were thus forced to discuss the matter, whereas according to the "Plan of Guadalupe" dated March 26th, 1913, I am the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, and it is to me, as expressed on repeated occasions, to whom the foreign governments or authorities should address themselves in regard to matters of an international character.

And although the Department of State expresses that if in various cases it has applied to local authorities it has been for the purpose of obtaining an immediate action, I deem it opportune to tell you for your government's information that in all matters affecting its nationals, it must deal directly with the First Chieftainship of the

Constitutionalist Army, and this authority will then communicate with the subordinate chiefs in regard to the matters originating the claims, so as to resolve and order what may be right.

Constitution and Reforms.

Nogales, Sonora, February 28th, 1914. (Signed) V. CARRANZA.
First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

Mr. Frederick Simpich, United States Consul.—Present.



IV
THE BAUCH CASE

(Doc. No. 1).

Telegram addressed by Secretary of State Bryan to Consul Frederick Simpich, at Nogales, Sonora, on the 28th of February, 1914,

Inform Señor Carranza that an American citizen called Bauch, who was in prison at Ciudad Juarez on the 18th, has disappeared. Authorities informed Villa had taken him to Chihuahua, but Villa says Bauch is not at Chihuahua. Request immediate investigation. Disregarding the rights of foreigners results detrimental to the Constitutionalist Cause, and if not corrected soon will complicate very seriously the situation and compel this government to consider very stern measures. We are sure Señor Carranza will immediately act.

(Signed) BRYAN.

(Doc. No. 2).

I have received, through the Assistant Sub-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, now acting Secretary, the telegram addressed to you today by the Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, in regard to the Bauch case

In due answer I have the honor to tell you that with all interest I have immediately addressed myself to the corresponding authorities asking them to report the facts said telegram refers to, and I assure you that as soon as some information is obtained I shall have pleasure in communicating with you.

You may believe—and I request of you to transmit it to the Department of State—that I lament very sincerely this unfortunate happening; that said Department can rely on the assurance that my attitude this time as ever, will be based on an absolute respect for foreigners and the law.

Please accept for yourself, and transmit to the Secretary of State, the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration.

Constitution and Reforms.

Nogales, Sonora, February 28th, 1914.

V. CARRANZA,

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

Mr. Frederick Simpich, American Consul.

(Doc. No. 3.)

In regard to the unofficial representation made by yourself to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, through the Foreign Office under my charge, referring to the American citizen Gustavo Bauch, who has disappeared from Chihuahua, it is highly pleasing for me to advise you, by orders of the very First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, that once made the investigation ordered as communicated to you in my note of February 28th, the local authorities report that said Mr. Bauch was captured in Chihuahua as a suspected enemy of the Constitutionalist Cause; but later on he was set free, the authorities of Chihuahua having at present no news of Bauch's whereabouts. However, I take pleasure in saying that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, wishing a thorough investigation to be made in this case for the satisfaction of the Department of State and for our own, and in order that your government may see our goodwill to comply with the representations duly made to the First Chief, the case of Mr. Gustavo Bauch will be put up to the Special Committee on investigations, the same that has charge of studying the Benton case, so that said Committee investigates at once this matter, enabling us to proceed in full justice. At the same time I gladly inform you that orders have been given to the Chihuahua authorities to ascertain by all possible means Mr. Bauch's location. On this account it is highly pleasant for me to protest to you once more the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration.

Constitution and Reforms.

Nogales, Sonora, March, 4th, 1914.

(Signed) FABELA.

V

A. B. C. CASE

(Doc. No. 1.)

TELEGRAM.

New York, April 25th, 1914.

Isidro Fabela:

The latest news is that President Wilson has accepted good offices offered by Argentine, Brazil and Chile to solve question between American government and Huerta.

Consul General, Francisco Urquidi.

(Doc. No. 2.)

TELEGRAM.

From Chihuahua, Chi., April 26th, 1914.—To New York, N. Y.

Francisco Urquidi, 185 Madison Avenue:

First Chief is informed that President Wilson has accepted good offices offered by Argentine, Brazil and Chile to settle question between American Government and Huerta. Greetings.

FABELA.

(Doc. No. 3.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, April 28th, 1914.

Received at Chihuahua.

General V. Carranza:

We, the Plenipotentiary Ambassadors from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, have been authorized by our governments to offer our good offices to all the parties interested in the peaceful and friendly solution of the conflict pending between Mexico and the United States. We inform the Superior Chief of the Constitutionalist forces about this fact and hope he accepts such good offices, in principle, if it is in accordance with his lofty patriotic feelings, and will enable us to start later on the proper negotiations. We dare to send this message directly after having vainly tried during several days to send it thorough Constitutionalist agents located in Washington.

D. Da Gama, Ambassador from Brazil.—R. S. Naón, Argentine Minister.—E. Suarez Mugica, Minister from Chile.

(Doc. No. 4.)

TELEGRAM.

Chihuahua, Chi., April 29th, 1914.

Messrs. Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama; Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón; and Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Mugica.

Washington, D. C.:

I sincerely thank you for the offer you are pleased to make in behalf of your respective governments, of interposing your good offices for the purpose of finding a peaceful and friendly solution to the conflict pending between the United States and Mexico. Availing myself of the extraordinary faculties I am invested with, and acting as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, I accept, in principle, the good offices that Brazil, Argentine and Chile offer Mexico through the very worthy channel of yourselves, and, intending to enter later on into the details of the negotiations, it is highly satisfactory for me to protest to you the assurances of my appreciation and my most distinguished consideration.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 5.)

TELEGRAM.

From Washington, April 30th, 1914.

Received at Chihuahua.

General V. Carranza:

We have had the honor to receive the courteous telegram wherein you accept our good offices, and we consider that our offer is now accepted by the three parties interested in the peaceful and friendly solution of the conflict pending between Mexico and the United States. As a consequence of your acceptance, it would be proper to stop at once hostilities and any military action among all the contending parties, as it would be inconvenient that the discussions of the basis for the definitive settlement upon which the whole world and specially the American Continent lay their hopes, were disturbed by the dismal spectacle of bloody strife.

We greet you with our highest regard.

D. Da Gama, Ambassador from Brazil.—R. S. Naón, Minister from Argentine.—Eduardo Suárez Mugica, Minister from Chile.

(Doc. No. 6.)

TELEGRAM.

From Chihuahua, May 1st, 1914.

To Washington, D. C.

Messrs. Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama; Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón; Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Mugica:

It is highly pleasant for me to address myself to you again in regard to your message of yesterday. In due answer I have the honor to say that the international conflict between the United States and Mexico, deliberately provoked by Huerta, is not connected with our civil strife for liberty and right, and I do not consider it fair nor convenient for my country to stop hostilities and military action, since such suspension as you propose would be only useful to Huerta. The civil war in Mexico between Huerta the Usurper and the army in my command, that is, the armed citizens, must continue with full activity to re-establish as soon as possible the Constitutional regime now interrupted, and to obtain the true peace resulting therefrom.

On this account I request of you to please excuse my non-acceptance of the armistice you deem proper to propose, and beg of you to see in my attitude only the purpose I have in mind to do what is more suitable for the interests of my country.

V. CARRANZA.

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 7.)

TELEGRAM.

From Washington, D. C., May 3d, 1914.

Received at Chihuahua.

General Venustiano Carranza:

Intending to give due consideration to the answer you will give as we expect, to our telegram dated April 30th, we have the honor to advise that our good offices having been accepted by all the parties interested in the friendly and peaceful solution of the conflict pending between Mexico and the United States, the moment has arrived when we must proceed to make formal negotiations and it is necessary to that purpose that each of the parties appoints its representative commission to meet with the mediators and discuss the basis for the settlement, kindly communicating with us on such matter as soon as possible. Once made the designation of representatives or delegates, we shall immediately indicate the time and place for the inauguration of the conferences.

D. D. Gama.—R. S. Naón.—E. Suárez Múgica.

(Doc. No. 8.)

TELEGRAM.

From Chihuahua, May 3d, 1914.

To Washington, D. C.

Messrs. Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama;

Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón;

Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Múgica:

I take pleasure in referring to your mesage of yesterday. Having accepted in principle the good offices of the nations you so worthily

represent, allow me to request of you now to please define exactly the points on which said good offices are to be used in the conflict pending between the United States and Mexico, so as to appoint delegates duly authorized.

V. CARRANZA.

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 9.)

TELEGRAM.

From Durango, May 25th, 1914.
To Washington, D. C.

Mr Rafael Zubaran,

The Burlington:

Please hand Messrs. Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama, Minister from Argentine, Naón, and Minister from Chile, Suarez Múgica, the following note:

"Six days ago the conferences started to discuss the international conflict between the United States and Mexico originated by the capture of American marines by Huerta soldiers at Tampico. To solve this conflict you addressed yourselves to the American Government, to General Huerta and to me, offering good offices and inviting me to appoint delegates to represent the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army under my charge. I answered you that I accepted in principle your good offices, and then in another message I expressed my desire to have you define the points to be discussed at the peace conferences. Expecting your answer to that message I have not appointed delegates, and it seems strange to me that you still continue trying to solve the international conflict between the United States and this country, without taking in consideration that the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army under my charge represents the majority of the inhabitants and the greatest armed power in the Republic. Therefore I advise you that in my opinion the conflict between United States and Mexico must not be solved in such conferences without a representative of the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army taking part in them."

Greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 10.)

TELEGRAM.

Received at Durango.

Juarez City, May 29th, 1914.

Mr. Carranza:

By request of Mr. Zubaran, I am inserting herein the note he sent to the South American mediators in compliance with the instructions you gave him in the telegraphic conference held on the 25th.

Respectfully, PANI.

"Washington, May 28th, 1914.

Honorable Sir: The undersigned, special representative of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army of Mexico, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, complying with express instructions, has the honor to advise your Excellencies, the Ambassador from Brazil and the Ministers from Chile and Argentine, the following:

"With the noble purpose in view of solving in a peaceful and friendly manner the conflict pending between the United States and the Mexican Nation, Your Excellencies addressed yourselves to the United States Government, to General Huerta and to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, offering your good offices and inviting each of the interested parties to appoint representatives for the purpose of discussing the details of the negotiations. The Chief of the Constitutionalist Government, highly obliged by the good wishes and the sympathy shown by the sister republics of the American Continent, accepted in principle the offer made of your good offices, and, considering that the situation Mexico is undergoing is very delicate, he entreated you to please define the points to which such good offices would be confined, so that he could make a proper choice of representatives duly authorized. Without having received a concrete answer to the note alluded to, the Chief of the Constitutionalist Government was notified that in case of failing to stop hostilities against Huerta, which he deemed inconsistent with his true duties toward the Mexican people, Your Excellencies would be compelled to withdraw the invitation made him to appoint delegates, being unofficial. The said Chief of the Constitutionalist Government knows now that the proceedings of the mediation have been going on since some time ago, the Huerta representatives

taking part in them, and he deplores that the conflict between the United States and Mexico should have been discussed and should continue under discussion without taking in consideration that the Constitutionalist cause he represents has the support of a majority of the inhabitants and of the armed forces of the Mexican Republic, and that this force, acting under his command, has been able to take away from under Huerta's grasp, since the mediation was started, the cities of Monterrey, Tampico and Saltillo with the adjacent territories, and the Territory of Tepic. Under such circumstances, the Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, with all the respect and the consideration due to your Excellencies, is compelled to say that he judges that the conflict above referred to should not be subject to negotiations in the conferences of the mediation, the representatives of the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army being not present. The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to offer Your Excellencies, the Plenipotentiaries from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration."

(Signed) RAFAEL ZUBARAN CAPMANY.

To Their Excellencies, Dionisio Da Gama, Ambassador from Brazil; Doctor Romulo Naón, Minister from Argentine, and Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Minister from Chile.

Niagara Falls, Canada.

(Doc. No. 11.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., June 7th, 1914.

Señor V. Carranza,

Durango, Durango:

At one o'clock this afternoon I received the following note from Niagara: "We have had the pleasure to read your courteous communication dated May 28th, of which we took careful notice. We gladly note the acknowledgment of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army for the wishes and sympathy determinating the offer of our good offices to solve the conflict pending between the United States and Mexico, which offer is inspired by the express purpose of working for the interest of peace and civilization in our Continent, and our desire to avoid any further bloodshed capable of disturbing the cordiality of the union of all the governments and peoples of America. These being our purposes, we would not be able to welcome

to our conferences the representatives of all the interested parties, if they did not consent to submit to the consideration and council of the mediators the differences dividing them, in order to look for the solution of the conflict in an atmosphere of peace and conciliation. It would be highly satisfactory for us to know that we are authorized to see in the penult paragraph of your message an expression of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army denoting the same spirit of tolerance which in our opinion must prevail in the discussions of the mediation, and indicating also his adherence to the statements made in our last telegraphic message of May 3d. We dare recommend the First Chief through your kindness to please hasten the designation of his representatives to the conferences we initiated, as we think it may be indispensable. We avail this opportunity to offer you the assurances of our distinguished consideration.

D. Da Gama.—R. S. Naón.—Eduardo Suárez Múgica.

(Doc. No. 12.)

TELEGRAM.

From Saltillo, Coahuila, June 9th, 1914.

To Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rafael Zubaran, c| A. Papi,

Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua:

On account of trip I made from Torreon to this Capital, it is possible for me at last to answer today your telegram of the 7th, wherein you insert the note of the Argentine, Brazil and Chile mediators. Please inform Messrs. Naón, Múgica and Da Gama that having not been able to understand in full the points contained in their note you transmitted, I wish they were so kind as to define their ideas in a note explanatory of their previous one, and then I shall be very pleased to answer immediately. In regard to your telegram of yesterday relating to your interview with Bryan, I also wish you to explain with all clearness your statements and his declarations, because I find no precision in the ideas of either. Greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 13.)

TELEGRAM.

June 10th, 1914.

General V. Carranza,

Saltillo, Coahuila:

Allow me to request of you to reconsider your telegram of yesterday regarding mediation. Public opinion begins to show us hostility because it is believed that we do not act in good faith, since we delay our answer, and if we ask mediators to explain further their note it is certain that we shall provoke ill-feeling of press, of mediators and of United States Government. The mediators' note expresses their wish for your sending a delegate to the Niagara Conferences, and in diplomatic terms they request to accept that our internal affairs be discussed, you meanwhile stopping hostilities. I dare submit to your consideration the necessity of answering, saying you need to be represented in the mediation to solve conflict between United States and Mexico and in the meantime you also needs must not allow any meddling in our domestic affairs, and, consequently, will not stop hostilities. However, you better tell them so in the same diplomatic wording they use, and since it is not proper that you should intend to trace the line the mediators should adopt as to their relations with United States delegates, it is my opinion that your answer would be clearly and properly expressed by telling them that you reserve to yourself the right not to take part in the discussion of Mexico's domestic matters if they thought that such subjects must be also studied by the mediators, and furthermore, that in discussing any other point of disagreement between you and them it would be easier to do it your representatives being here than by means of notes and telegrams. In these conditions you do not alter your policy at all, and we do not expose ourselves to draw on us the ill will of the people as otherwise we would, by giving them occasion to say that we have been incompetent to fight on diplomatic grounds. I also judge, Sir, that the mediators should be left under the obligation to determine for themselves whether they admit your representatives. To this purpose I request of you to reconsider the convenience of sending your answer, saying that under the expressed conditions, that is, without consenting to their mediation in our domestic affairs, you just expect their telegraphic advice to send over your delegates who are already appointed. The urgent necessity of a prompt answer to the mediators prevents my quoting again Mr. Bryan's declarations, which I shall do in next message. Let me finally say that the United States Govern-

ment would be much pleased with a prompt and fair answer from you to the mediators. I impatiently await your instructions.

ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 14.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., June 11, 1914.

Mr. V. Carranza, Saltillo, Coah.:

By virtue of my telegram of yesterday, where I requested of you to please reconsider the instructions given me to ask the mediators to make clearer their note—waiting for your answer, I have done nothing. The Administration here is anxious to have you answer the Mediators. I have the whole Press on me and I did not want to tell them that I received instructions from you to ask explanations of the mediators. For these reasons and considering that any further delay to answer them would bring about a crisis, I dare request of you to please tell me before I quit the telegraph station, where I am expecting your orders, if I must send a note in accordance with your telegram of yesterday, which would undoubtedly produce a most unfavorable sensation here, allow me to say it, or else if you want to give me new instructions to act this very day as you may please to order.

Respectfully,

ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 15.)

TELEGRAM.

Saltillo, Coah., June 11, 1914.

Mr. Rafael Zubaran, The Burlington, Washington, D. C.:

Please make known to the Delegates from Brazil, Argentine and Chile the following note as my answer to their favor of the 9th:

“To Their Excellencies, the Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama; the Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón, and the Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Mugica: It was a high honor for me to

receive your kind note dated at Niagara the 7th inst., sent through Mr. Zubaran. You are pleased therein express to me once more your desire to have me appoint Delegates to represent me as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am, and to attend the conference being held in that city on account of the good offices you were pleased to offer to the United States, to General Huerta and to me for the solution of the international conflict pending between the United States and Mexico. Having accepted in principle such good offices since the 29th of last April and since you have been waiting for my appointing such commissioners, I have the honor to inform you that I have for my part extended the due credentials as representatives of the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army under my charge, to Messrs. Fernando Iglesias Calderon, Luis Cabrera and Jose Vasconcelos, instructing them to attend in my behalf such conferences as you are carrying on, and which are intended to solve the international conflict pending between the United States and the Mexican Nation. I shall thank your good selves for giving a reply to this note, so that I may immediately instruct my representatives, and, they being duly authorized by me, have them leave at once for that city to perform their mission. It is highly pleasing for me to renew to you the assurances of my kindest and most distinguished consideration."

Greetings,

CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 16.)

TELEGRAM.

From Niagara, June 15, 1914.

Received at Saltillo.

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Mr. V. Carranza:

We have just had the honor to receive today the note you were kind enough to address to us through your representative Mr. R. Zubaran Capmany, and referring to it we hasten to express our fear lest you may not have considered the last paragraphs of our note dated the 2d inst.

We greet you with our kindest regard.

D. Da Gagama, Ambassador from Brazil.

R. S. Naón, Minister from Argentine.

E. Suarez Mugica, Minister from Chile.

(Doc. No. 17.)

TELEGRAM.

From Saltillo, Coah., June 20, 1914.

Mr. Rafael Zubaran, The Burlington, Washington, D. C.:

Please make this note reach the A. B. C. mediators:

Messrs. Ambassador from Brazil, D. Da Gama; Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón, and Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Mugica: I had the honor to receive the note you sent me from Niagara on the 15th inst. In regard to it I dare say that I have always been willing to take part in the conferences which, according to statements made by your good selves, should have had for their only purpose the finding of a solution in a friendly and peaceful manner to the international conflict arisen between the United States and Mexico.

With this understanding did I accept very willingly the good offices that Argentine, Brazil and Chile, through the very worthy channel of your Excellencies, offered to the United States Government, to Victoriano Huerta and to me as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am.

We have been put out of the possibility of taking any part in such conferences by demanding certain conditions which are unacceptable, whereas the most proper thing to do would be to overcome all difficulties and to endeavor to bring together the Constitutionalist delegates with the American commissioners and have them settle in the best possible way the international conflict created by Huerta, and the only point under discussion. You try now, Sirs, to discuss our domestic affairs, such as the ending of hostilities and all military movements between Huerta the usurper and the Constitutionalist Army; the agrarian question, the designation of a Provisional President of this Republic, and some others. In front of such intentions so foreign to the purpose firstly assigned to the conferences, it is my duty, as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am, to declare that a grave error is committed by trying to solve problems of great moment for the Mexican people which only the Mexicans are empowered to solve by the unquestionable right of their sovereignty. Furthermore, gentlemen, allow me to say, with all the due respect, that such action of yours is beyond mere good offices and within a true mediation, arbitration or even intervention, which we would have never accepted. For these reasons we are perfectly convinced that the Niagara Conferences shall not give the results expected by the interested parties as well as by other Powers. Consequently, if in the international conferences at Niagara the domestic affairs of Mexico, which belong

exclusively to the Government and the citizens of Mexico, have been discussed in any manner, I formally proclaim my inconformity with such acts, deploring that the representatives of three sister countries, which are undoubtedly zealous of their own sovereignty, may have been the first to encroach upon the independence that a free and sovereign State has the right to enjoy and the obligation to uphold. I take note of your communiques of the 2d and the 15th inst., and considering this diplomatic incident as ended, I request of you to please accept the assurances of my kindest and distinguished consideration.

V. CARRANZA,

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 18.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., June 22, 1914.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza, Saltillo, Coah.:

Despite my message of yesterday, on account of the Associated Press having a synthesis of the instructions you were pleased to give me for my note to the mediators, I sent them yesterday evening the following:

"The undersigned, complying with express instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army of Mexico, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, has the honor to answer the message dated the 15th inst. with which Your Excellencies were pleased to honor the said Chief of the Constitutionlists. Mr. Carranza wishes to make it clear that he gave the due consideration to your kind note of the 2d, and that he has always been very willing to take part in the Niagara Conferences, which, judging by the text of the first invitation you made to that effect, should have been intended to find a peaceful and friendly solution to the conflict arisen between the United States and Mexico; that with this understanding he accepted with all his heart the good offices offered through the worthy channel of Your Excellencies by the Government of Argentine, Brazil and Chile to the United States Government, to General Huerta and to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army; that nothing would have pleased more the Chief of the Constitutionalist Government them seeing all difficulties met on the way to meeting with the delegates of the American Government overcome by the good offices of Your Excellencies, so as to endeavor to find the most convenient solution to the international conflict provoked

by General Huerta; however, despite his good intentions, he finds himself unable to attend the Niagara Conferences on account of the conditions which it seems were demanded in order to accept his representatives already appointed, and meeting on the way of his good wishes the circumstance that it was intended to discuss in such conferences certain matters of a merely domestic character, such as the suspension of hostilities and military action between the Constitutionalist Army and General Huerta, the agrarian question, the designation of a provisional government for Mexico; the manner in which the power was to be transmitted, and some other matters which were entirely foreign to the original purposes of the conferences. In view of such situation, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army deems it his duty to make the declaration that he considers it an error that in an international conference a solution should be looked for to problems of great moment for the Mexican people, which the Mexicans only should undertake to solve, and therefore he fears that the conferences alluded to may not give the good results expected by the interested parties and by some foreign powers. The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army believes also that it is necessary to express that, consequently, if in such international conferences any matters were discussed of a merely domestic or constitutional nature, it would be his duty to express at once his respectfully inconformity with whatsoever resolutions might be taken there; and in doing so he entertains the hope that his attitude may be justly understood as inspired by his duty to safeguard a sovereignty of which the Mexican people is very zealous, just like the sister countries so worthily represented by Your Excellencies are zealous of their own."

While transmitting to your good selves the above inserted note, the undersigned, in behalf of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army and in his own behalf, request of you to please accept the assurances of his highest and most respectful consideration.

ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 19.)

TELEGRAM.

From Washington, June 22d, 1914.
Received at Saltillo.

Señor Venustiano Carranza:

The following is the text of a note addressed to me in my capacity as representative of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, on the 21st inst., by the mediators:

"Although reasons that we can but respect prevent the official delegates of the Constitutionalist Party from attending the Conferences intended to solve the Mexican problem, we, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, have believed that the organization of a provisional government capable of accomplishing the pacification of Mexico could be obtained in the most rapid and consistent way by means of a direct understanding between the representatives of the two great factions now struggling, which together would undoubtedly constitute the fullest expression of the Mexican Nation's will. Thus a patriotic settlement being obtained between such representaives, it would be submitted to the mediation as basis for the arrangement of the other points under discussion with the United States Government. On this account we deem opportune to suggest the convenience of availing the stay here of the delegates sent by the Huerta Government and to have an authorized commission of the party you so worthily represent in Washington meet with them in a neighboring place to discuss and agree to the organization of the provisional government called to achieve the pacification of the country and see to the re-establishment of the normal regime. It seems superfluous to add that the Plenipotentiary mediators being moved by the desire, first of all, of alleviating the calamities weighing on the Mexican Nation, after consulting the interests of all the contending parties and, in special, the dignity and sovereignty of that sister Republic, are most willing to bear always in mind their purpose of establishing the union and harmony of the Mexican people. A similar note has been addressed to the representatives of General Huerta's Government.

We greet you with all our consideration.

D. Da Gama.—R. Naón.—Eduardo Suárez Múgica."

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ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 20.)

TELEGRAM.

From Washington, D. C., June 27th, 1914.

Received at Monterrey.

General Venustiano Carranza:

The following is the note which, according to your instructions, I have sent to-day to the mediators. Separately I am reporting to-night by telegram on situation of this matter.

"Gentlemen: The undersigned, acting according to express instructions from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army of Mexico, Señor Venustiano Carranza, has the honor to answer your kind note dated at Niagara Falls the 21st inst. The Chief of the Constitutionalist Government appreciates your intention in inviting him to deal directly with delegates of General Huerta about the organization of a provisional government capable of achieving, in a consistent and rapid way, the pacification of Mexico; however, notwithstanding his good wishes to give our country an organic and durable peace resorting to all means except those that would ruin and nullify the great sacrifices made by the Mexican people in our actual strife, he finds himself under the obligation to consult the opinion of the military chiefs of the Constitutionalist Army before resolving about the appointing of delegates who, representing him, would meet those of General Huerta to discuss the possibility of reaching an agreement to end the war; this necessity comes from the obligation assumed by Señor Carranza and all his followers to obey most faithfully the Guadalupe Revolutionary Plan, which follows the spirit of our Political Constitution and intends to restore the constitutional order by means of a provisional President, and which plan would have to be modified in the sense of making such provisional government, to be derived from a possible settlement with the delegates of General Huerta, and Señor Carranza also wishes that any agreement which might be reached be respected in all its parts. To this purpose and intending to support the efforts of your good selves toward finding a peaceful solution to the struggle the Mexican people was compelled to start in defense of its institutions, the First Chief has already addressed himself to all the generals of the Constitutionalist Army regarding the case, and all he wishes is to ask of you very courteously to grant him a short notice while he receives his followers' answer in order to be able to appoint his representatives to discuss with the Huerta envoys about the manner in which he is to transmit the power he unlawfully retains. The undersigned, in behalf of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army and in his own name, begs of you to accept the assurances of his highest and most respectful consideration.

ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 21.)

TELEGRAM.

From Saltillo, Coahuila, June 30th, 1914.

The Plenipotentiaries from Argentine, Brazil and Chile at Washington sent me the following note:

"Although reasons that we but respect prevent the official delegates of the Constitutionalist Party from attending the conferences intended to solve the Mexican problem, we the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have believed that the organization of a provisional government capable of accomplishing the pacification of Mexico could be obtained in the most rapid and consistent way, by means of a direct understanding between the representatives of the two great factions now struggling, which, put together, would undoubtedly constitute the fullest expression of the Mexican Nation's will. A patriotic settlement between such representatives being thus obtained, it would be submitted to the mediators as basis for the arrangement of the other points under discussion with the United States Government. On this account we deem pertinent to suggest the convenience of availing the stay here of the delegates sent by the Huerta Government and having an authorized commission of the party you so worthily represent in Washington, to meet with them in a near-by place to discuss and arrange the organization of the provisional government called to achieve the pacification of the country and see to the re-establishment of the normal regime. It seems superfluous to add that the Plenipotentiary mediators being moved above all by their desire of alleviating the calamities weighing on the Mexican Nation, after consulting the interests of all the contending parties, and, in special, the dignity and sovereignty of that sister Republic, will always bear in mind their purpose of establishing the union and harmony of the Mexican people. A similar note has been addressed to the representatives of General Huerta's Government.

"We greet you with all our consideration.—D. Da Gama.—R. Naón.—Eduardo Suárez Múgica."

I answered the inserted note expressing to the diplomatic representatives of Argentine, Brazil and Chile, that you were going to communicate with the main chiefs of the Constitutionalist Army consulting their opinion about the convenience of accepting the mediation offered to obtain the solution of our national problems by means of conferences between representatives of this First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army and representatives of General Victoriano Huerta. I wish you gave me your opinion, so that once you receive the answer from all the generals of the Constitutionalist Army, whom I have already consulted, I may inform the Plenipotentiaries from Argentine, Brazil and Chile whether we accept their mediation.

V. CARRANZA.

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

Generals Candido Aguilar, Luis G. Caballero, Eulalio Gutiérrez, Jesús Carranza, Domingo Arrieta, Mariano Arrieta, Pánfilo Natera, P. Elías Calles, J. Carrera Torres and Fidel Avila.

(Doc. No. 22.)

TELEGRAM.

From Saltillo, Coahuila, July 2d, 1914.

Messrs. Generals Francisco Villa and others,

Torreon, Coahuila:

I received your messages of June 3d and the 1st inst., and expect confirmation of the latter. I judge it pertinent to inform you about the following antecedents in regard to the international question. The Niagara conferences held by the Plenipotentiaries of Argentine, Brazil and Chile and the representatives of the American Government and of Huerta have not had, nor could ever have a satisfactory outcome, since they have tried to solve the conflict pending between the United States and Mexico, the Constitutionals, who represent the majority of the Mexican people and the strongest armed power in the Republic, taking no part in them. It seems that in foreign countries the mediators are criticised on account of their attitude towards ourselves, because they demanded as conditions for accepting us into their conferences that we should lay down our arms, stopping hostilities and any other military action, and, furthermore, they wanted me to permit the mediators to discuss Mexico's domestic problems, which only we Mexicans know of and have the right to solve authorized by our independence and sovereignty. In view of the fact that the conferences did not give the good results expected by some people, the mediators are trying to initiate new series of conferences apart from those of Niagara, between Huerta and ourselves. The American Government backs this new attempt to give a peaceful and friendly solution to our civil strife. That Government believes that we are going to accept, and lends all its support to the mediators in this work, because what is wished by that Government is that Mexico may have an early peace. I have trustworthy reports that if we do not accede to meet the Huerta delegates by appointing our commissioners to that purpose, we shall be subjected to the hostility of the American Government. Such hostility could manifest itself in various ways, but specially by embargoing the exportations of arms and ammunition to our ports of the Gulf and the Pacific, which would make our situation extremely difficult to prosecute our campaign against the enemy.

Please communicate this message to all the Generals of the Division under your command.

V. CARRANZA,

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 23.)

TELEGRAM.

From Saltillo, Coahuila, July 10th, 1914.

Mr. Rafael Zubaran Capmany,

The Burlington, Washington, D. C.:

Having consulted the Generals of the Constitutionalist Army under my command whether they approved of my appointing delegates of the First Chief of the same Army to enter into any agreements with the representatives of General Huerta in order to choose in common agreement a Provisional President and thus put an end to our present strife, the majority of them have answered that they do not accept the idea of appointing delegates to meet the Huerta men to that purpose. Consequently, please advise the Plenipotentiaries of Argentine, Brazil and Chile, in due response to their note of last June which you transmitted on the 22d of the same, that while appreciating their intentions to end our civil war, and thanking them for the attentions they have had the kindness to show me, I regret to say that it is impossible for me to send representatives of the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army under my charge to meet the delegates of General Huerta and discuss with them the formation of a provisional government for the Republic. At the same time express to them in my behalf, that they may advise the delegates of said General, that the only possible way, the only one I would accept, to stop our internal strife, is the unconditional surrender of General Victoriano Huerta with the whole army supporting him. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA,

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 24.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., July 16, 1914.

Mr. V. Carranza, Monterrey, N. L.:

I submit to your consideration the text of the note I shall send to the South American mediators:

“Your Excellencies: The undersigned, special representative of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army of Mexico, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, by virtue of express instructions, has the honor to say to His Excellency the Ambassador from Brazil and Their Excellencies the Ministers from Chile and Argentine, the following: The First Chief having consulted the opinion of the Generals of the Constitutionalist Army in regard to the convenience of appointing delegates to enter into negotiations with the delegates of General Huerta for the purpose of discussing and agreeing upon with such delegates as to the organization of a provisional Government called to consolidate the peace of the country, and to the re-establishment of a normal regime, a majority of said Generals have already given their answer, in view of which and taking in consideration the high interests of Mexico and of the Cause upheld by the Constitutionalist Army, the First Chief has the honor to say through my offices to Their Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries from Argentine, Brazil and Chile, in reply to their note of the 21st of last June, that, fully appreciating the noble wishes expressed by them to see the civil war of Mexico ended and thanking very deeply the noble interest shown by the South American Nations as well as by their representatives, the said First Chief regrets, however, not to be able to accept the invitation so kindly made him to send delegates to meet with the Huerta Representatives and discuss with them the establishment of a provisional Government in Mexico. Mr. Carranza wishes me also to make known to Your Excellencies the reasons he has to decline such invitation, and which are as follows: he believes that since the character of Huerta’s government is fundamentally illegitimate, it is strictly indispensable for the consolidation of peace in Mexico that he should not abandon the line of conduct he has ever followed and which leads him to consider that neither internationally nor within the country could the acts of Huerta be sanctioned, purport any injury to the country nor have any legal force whatsoever, and therefore the Constitutionalist Revolution would act in an inconsistent manner if General Huerta or any self-styled government derived from him should be taken as a factor for the solution of our domestic or international problems. To the mind of the Constitutionalist Army, the so-called government of General Huerta implies a permanent and continuous violation of the Mexican Constitutional laws, which must cease by the submission of the guilty to the law itself, which is like saying that the only legitimate means to make the actual strife come to an end in Mexico, and therefore the only way to have the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army accept peace, would be to have General Huerta submit unconditionally to the Revolution, as well as all those who may have given him their support, and any other regime which may pretend to derive from him any alleged authority.

"The undersigned, in behalf of the First Chief of the Constitutional Army and in his own behalf, requests of Your Excellencies to please accept the assurances of the highest consideration."

Respectfully,

ZUBARAN.

(Doc. No. 25.)

Washington, D. C., August 15th, 1915.

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of America; the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, and the Extraordinary Envoys from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala accredited before the Government of the United States of America, separately and independently acting, unanimously address to you the following note:

"Moved by the most sincere spirit of American fraternity, and being sure of interpreting the wish of the whole Continent, we have met in a formal way, at the suggestion of the United States Government, to discuss the Mexican situation and see if we can lend with success our disinterested and friendly help toward restoring peace and the constitutional order in that sister Republic. In the heat of the gory struggle that has shed so much blood on the Mexican soil for such a long time, undoubtedly one must have lost sight of the dissolvent effects the fight is producing upon the most vital conditions of national existence, not only upon the life and property of the inhabitants but also upon the prestige and security of the country. We cannot doubt that a friendly call made to the Mexicans by their brothers of America, making them remember the disastrous effects alluded to and bidding them to save their own country from destruction, would move the main leaders of that gory struggle and stir their patriotic feelings; no one can doubt that each one of them, realizing in his own conscience his portion of responsibility for the passed calamities and looking ahead to his portion of glory for the pacification and reconstruction of his country, will respond, nobly and resolutely, to this friendly call, and devote his powers to facilitate any action toward the country's salvation. We judge that if the leaders of armed movements in Mexico, be they politicians or military chiefs, agree to meet, either personally or through representatives, far from the loud clamoring of the guns and without any other inspiration but the afflicted image of the country, in order to discuss and decide the fate of the Republic, some strong decision would undoubtedly emerge from that meeting for the creation of a provisional government called to adopt the first measures leading to the

national reconstruction. The most important of all would be the immediate call for general elections within the Mexican frontiers. This point would be settled by the delegates in their first meeting. In order to organize such conferences as we propose, the undersigned will have the greatest satisfaction to serve as intermediaries, if so desired, provided such mediation promises to be advantageous in any manner for the Mexican people. We expect to have your answer within a reasonable length of time, and consider that such time could be ten days counted from the date of its delivery, we being at liberty to extend it if there is reason for it. Signed: Robert Lansing, United States Secretary of State; D. Da Gama, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil; Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile; S. Naón, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Argentine; I. Calderon, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia; Carlos María de Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay; Joaquín Méndez, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala.

(Doc. No. 26.)

State Capitol, Potosi, August 18th, 1915.

To the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army:

Honorable Sir:

Our opinion has been consulted by the Washington diplomats who days ago communicated with you. Wishing not to resort to improper channels, I take on myself the liberty of sending you our answer to those distinguished gentlemen, in order that if you deem it proper you may transmit it to them.

"Honorable Sirs: It is a well known fact in our country that whenever the reactionaries see their cause lost they appeal to foreign countries demanding their intervention. Now then, the men who in the present case lend their support to the vanquished reaction may be divided into two classes: first, those who act in good faith, moved only by generous feelings which compel them to wish us peace. These people, though, know nothing about our problems. Second, those who pursue an interested aim and wish to divide us, initiating an ungrateful task of indiscipline and disorder by addressing themselves to us instead of doing it only to the First Chief, who, as our commanding chief that he is, is the only one duly authorized to solve these questions, being the depositary of all our confidence on account of his straightforwardness and sound judgment. It is to be lamented that the people of the first group lend themselves,

unwittingly and perhaps unknowingly, to be used as instruments by the people of the second group. We must convince these friends that fortunately there is no one among the Constitutionalist military chiefs as ambitious as Villa, capable of insubordinating himself and ignoring the First Chief. Honorable Gentlemen: there is nothing we Mexicans consider more disagreeable than any foreign meddling when our domestic affairs are at stake."

Respectfully,

G. GAVIRA,

Governor and Military Commander.

(Doc. No. 27.)

GENERAL AGUILAR'S ANSWER.

"I am at present the Military Governor of the State of Veracruz, and have under my command, as Commanding General that I am, the First Division of the East. The Constitutionalist Army struggling in my country against the Reactionary for the purpose of restoring to the people their lost liberties and establishing, once the country is pacified, the constitutional regime destroyed by the usurpers, has as its Supreme Chief Mr. Venustiano Carranza, whose authority we the military chiefs all acknowledge. Consequently, I being accustomed to perform loyally all my duties, I could not give an answer to the kind note of your Excellencies without breaking the discipline which binds us very closely to our Chief, who is the only one duly authorized to reply to the circular note referred to; especially so since we, the Constitutionalist chiefs, are sure that he will to-day as ever consult his firm and wise patriotism in front of the new serious obstacle laid by the Reactionary, as a last attempt, on the way to the accomplishment of our task of liberty, justice and peace, a matter so exclusively pertaining to the sovereignty of my country. None of the Constitutionalist chiefs shall individually take any action in this case, for doing so would tear asunder the cohesion there must exist among all the civil and military elements of the Constitutionalism. All I can do, therefore, is to transmit Your Excellencies' communication to Mr. Venustiano Carranza, Supreme Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, which I shall do at once. Please Your Excellencies accept my most distinguished consideration."

C. AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 28.)

**THE GOVERNOR OF YUCATAN REPLIES TO THE
NOTE OF THE MEDIATORS.**

State Capitol, Merida, Yuc., August 19, 1915.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza, Ulua, Ver.:

I have the honor to inform you that I received a note from the Secretary of State of the United States of America, the Extraordinary Ambassadors from Brazil, Chile and Argentine and the Extraordinary Envoys from Uruguay and Guatemala, and have given the following response:

"I have received the kind note of yours wherein you are pleased to insert the note addressed to you by Messrs. the Secretary of State of the United States, the Extraordinary Ambassadors from Brazil, Chile and Argentine and the Extraordinary Envoys from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, accredited before the Government of the United States of America, and in due answer to such note allow me to say that it must be addressed to Mr. Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, whose resolution shall have the hearty support of the Mexican people and of the Constitutionalist Army.

"I take pleasure in reassuring you of my distinguished consideration.

"Constitution and Reforms. Merida, Yuc., August 19, 1915.—Salvador Alvarado, Commanding General, Governor of Yucatan. Mr. W. P. Young, U. S. Vice-Consul, Progreso."

Respectfully,

General S. ALVARADO.

(Doc. No. 29.)

Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, August 19th, 1915.

Mr. Jesús Acuña, Sub-Secretary of the Foreign Office,

Faros, Veracruz:

VERY URGENT.

I have noted the contents of your kind message dated the 16th inst., regarding the fact that the First Chief knows already that

the Secretary of State of the United States of America and the representatives of Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala have addressed themselves to all the chiefs of the Constitutionalist Army, proposing a peace conference. I am glad to inform you that I received indeed the following note from said representatives through the American Consul in this city:

"Washington, D. C., August 11th, 1915.—The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of America; Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, and the Extraordinary Envoys and Plenipotentiary Ministers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala accredited before the Government of the United States of America, separately and independently acting, unanimously address to you the following note:

"Moved by the most sincere spirit of American fraternity, and being sure of interpreting properly the wish of the whole Continent, we have met in a formal way, at the suggestion of the United States, to consider the Mexican situation and see if we can successfully lend our unselfish and friendly help towards restoring peace and constitutional order in that sister Republic. In the heat of the gory struggle that has shed so much blood on the Mexican soil for such a long time, undoubtedly one must have lost sight of the dissolvent effects the fight is producing upon the most vital conditions of national existence, not only upon the life and property of the inhabitants but also upon the prestige and security of the country. We cannot doubt that a friendly call made to the Mexicans by their brothers of America, making them remember the disastrous effects alluded to and urging them to save their own country from the abyss, would move the main leaders of that gory struggle and stir their patriotic feelings; no one can doubt that each one of them, realizing in his own conscience his portion of responsibility for the passed calamities and looking forward to his portion of glory for the pacification and reconstruction of his country, will answer, nobly and resolutely, to this friendly call, and will devote his powers to facilitate any action towards the country's salvation. We judge that if the leaders of armed movements in Mexico, be they politicians or military chiefs, agree to meet, either personally or through representatives, far from the loud clamoring of the guns and without any other inspiration but the afflicted image of their country, in order to discuss and decide its fate, some strong decision from that meeting would undoubtedly emerge for the creation of a provisional government called to adopt the first measures leading to the national reconstruction. The most important of all these measures would be an immediate call for general elections within the Mexican frontiers. This would be settled by the delegates at their first meeting. In order to organize such conferences as we propose, the undersigned will have the greatest satisfaction to serve as intermediaries if it is so desired, provided

such mediation may prove advantageous in any manner to the Mexican people. We expect to have your answer within a reasonable length of time, and consider that such time could be ten days counted from the date of this note's delivery, we being at liberty to extend the time if there is reason for it. (Signed) Robert Lansing, United States Secretary of State; D. Da Gama, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil; Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile; S. Naón, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Argentine; I. Calderon, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia; Carlos María de Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay; Joaquin Mendez, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala."

I received this note on the 15th inst., at 11 o'clock in the morning, and answered it on that same day at 3 p. m. as follows:

"In response to the note you have been pleased to send me through the American Consul in this city, I have the honor to say that when the constitutional order was interrupted on account of the assassination of the highest authorities of the Republic, no Minister nor any other legal authority protested against such outrages except the Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila, Venustiano Carranza, who was then proclaimed First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army; and when Huerta, the Usurper, was overthrown, he took charge of the Executive Power of the Nation by virtue of the Guadalupe Revolutionary Plan, still in force, remaining as the only legal authority in the Republic, unanimously recognized by the whole Constitutionalist Army controlling more than seven-eighths of the national territory. All honest Mexicans being convinced that Señor Carranza is the only man capable of restoring the country to peace as he has demonstrated it very clearly—meeting the justified demands of the people and re-establishing the Constitutionalist order, and since, on the other hand, I have a strictly military character, I consider that it is to General Carranza to whom you should address your note, the First Chief representing the supreme authority of the country. He is, furthermore, the only chief I shall obey in any case as the soldier that I am."

My answer was published the following day in the Mexican Constitutionalist press and in periodicals of the United States, together with the answer given by General P. Elías Calles, both being the first answers given to the note of the mediators at Washington. On the same 15th I reported the case to the First Chief, but my message, on account of reasons I know not, was mailed at Tampico instead of being transmitted by wireless as its importance required. I hope that by this time such message is in the hands

of the First Chief, and my wishes are that every leader of the Constitutionalist Army may give a proper answer to the Pan-American note. Respectfully.

General A. RICAUT.

(Doc. No. 30.)

**REPLY GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
JALISCO, MR. MANUEL AGUIRRE BERLANGA**

To their Excellencies Messrs. the Secretary of State of the North American Government, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors from Argentine, Brazil and Chile, and the Plenipotentiary Ministers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala accredited before the U. S. Government, Washington, D. C.:

Your Excellencies: It is highly pleasing for me to tell you that I have taken note of the contents of the circular communiqué you subscribed, making the proposition of a conciliatory meeting to be held for the purpose of settling the Mexican problems, and your invitation came through the Secretary of State of the American Government to the Vice-Consul of the same nation in this place, with instructions to deliver a copy of such note to the authorities therein expressed, and the Honorable William B. Davis has handed me a copy of it.

For what concerns me as Governor of this State that I am, allow me to answer to your invitation only for the high consideration you deserve from me, but establishing beforehand in the most emphatic manner that since said note refers to international matters it falls exclusively under the jurisdiction of Mr. Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, to whom I am transmitting your said circular note and to whom you have to address yourselves hereafter, please, for the settling of all matters of an international character. He represents the Revolution and represents also the Mexican people with the sole exception of the very few reactionary who, already defeated, resort to perfidious intrigue against their own fatherland now that they have no other power to oppose to our forces.

The representation of the national sovereignty is genuinely vested in Mr. Carranza for all concerning domestic and international affairs, not only on account of the Revolutionary Plan we have adopted, but also because it is so the will of a great majority of us Mexicans and since it fully agrees with the prescriptions of International Law.

We the leaders of the Mexican movement have laid our confidence in Mr. Carranza, and since we respect our own convictions and obligations, as the Constitutionalist Party that we form, we shall always obey and support his resolutions.

Furthermore, I consider that when you drafted your note you were under the influence of false reports which are commonly spread in regard to the situation of this country, of its contending parties, of the ideals of one side and the ambitions of the other; that you do not know the true necessities of this people and its great desire for improvement, which must necessarily be satisfied if there is to be peace in the Republic, and under the influence of such false information your note contains a few unjust remarks in regard to the Revolution and propositions we cannot admit, as for instance, the intention of meddling in our political affairs and inviting us to admit transactions which undoubtedly would endanger the success of our principles.

To begin with, since you address yourselves to all the civil and military authorities of the Republic in your desire to have all the contending parties agree, instead of doing so only to the Chief of the Revolution, Mr. Carranza, it is clear that you believe that there are as many factions which you must make come to an agreement as there are military chiefs or governors.

That is not the case, gentlemen. The Constitutionalist Party has a good political and military organization. It controls at present nine-tenths of the national territory and is obeyed by the inhabitants of it; we have a program of government perfectly defined in the revolutionary Code shaping our conduct, and part of our intentions shall materialize in the pre-constitutional period—as accomplished facts have proven—and the rest shall be done as soon as legal order is resumed. We have not failed to determine the form in which the next elections shall take place and how we are to pass from the pre-constitutional to the constitutional period; we have seen to it that full guaranties are given to nationals and foreigners in the places we control; we have established in the States under our power the civil authorities needed for the services of Public Administration, and much has been accomplished in this respect despite the present abnormal conditions, and we are organized in such manner that from the lowest official up to the Supreme Chief of the Revolution all the acts are performed with order, harmony and subordination.

Our party stands for certain principles and is far from being inspired by egotistic personalism. And yet, you do not do us full justice—allow me to say so—when you suppose that we have lost sight of the results of the struggle on the vital conditions of the national existence, the life and liberty of the inhabitants, the prestige and the security of the country, for we are very zealous of all this and we bear it in mind to such extent, that it is just for the welfare, the prestige and liberty of our nation that we are enduring with all conformity the great inconveniences of war.

Not less unjust seems to be the assertion contained in your note that our patriotism shall convince us that this gory struggle

cannot be safe. Far from it, we are now even more firm in upholding our ideals; we believe that the strife, no matter how bloody it may be, is not so dear after all if the people is to recover by it forever its lost liberties and to lay on good foundations its future welfare, and to obtain the justice we long for. All the energies the Mexican people have had to waste by the capricious will of their enemies make them deservers of praise, not of censure, because it is a wellknown fact that the peoples which have tasted the sweet juice of liberty and have enjoyed its advantages love better to die than to be deprived of it and become mere slaves. Allow me to say with all sincerity that if any of the nations you represent should unfortunately lose its liberty, and, in order to regain it, such nation had to fight a long and cruel war, the Mexican people would praise the efforts made to regain its liberty.

You know also that modern international law sanctioned by the policies of the whole civilized world establishes that all countries must be respected and their right to solve their problems must be recognized. In the Mexican Case, as our problem has been called, let me assure you that it is a natural feeling of the Mexican people not to be willing to allow any foreign nations to meddle in our domestic affairs, and we believe that we have the legitimate right to reject any foreign meddling.

When I received your note, as I knew already that you were discussing at Washington the Mexican case, allow me to say that I candidly thought that you were planning to address yourselves to Mr. Carranza, announcing to him that the American nations recognized him as the supreme authority of the Mexican Republic, which would be the only moral aid that the Mexican people would be willing to accept. However, I reject any idea leading me to believe that you do not act as friendly as you claim to do.

If, as you say, your wishes for the pacification of Mexico are great, let me request of you very kindly to abstain yourselves from proposing to interpose your offices for the settlement of our difficulties, for you have some other ways to lend us your help without belittling the sovereignty and the dignity of the Mexican people, and let us solve our own problems as demanded by the nature of things, for if your desire to see our war ended is so great, our wishes are still greater. Fortunately the military events of the last few days assure us that we shall soon see our purposes achieved; and then we shall be proud of having won once again our liberties. Never mind if it cost us enormous sacrifices. Liberty is worth it all.

Please accept my high consideration.

Constitution and Reforms. State Capitol, Guadalajara, Jalisco.
August 20, 1915.

M. AGUIRRE BERLANGA.

Veracruz, August 21st, 1915.

Honorable John R. Silliman,

Special Representative of the State Department of the American Union:

My very dear Sir:

I informed the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army of the contents of the note sent through your honorable mediation by their Excellencies Messrs. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America; Dionisio Da Gama, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil; Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile; Romulo S. Naón, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Argentine; Ignacio Calderon, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia; Carlos Maria Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay, and Joaquin Mendez, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala; and, by orders of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, I request of you to please transmit to the above-named representatives the following answer:

"Honorable Messrs. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America; Dionisio Da Gama, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil; Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile; Romulo S. Naón, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Argentine; Ignacio Calderon, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia; Carlos María de Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay; and Joaquin Mendez, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala—Washington, D. C.:

"The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Union has taken notice of the circular note your Excellencies were pleased to address to him through the honorable channel of Mr. John R. Silliman, Confidential Agent of the State Department of the United States of America before this Government, offering your good offices to obtain the re-establishment of peace in the Mexican Republic; and said First Chief has deemed convenient that I address myself to you, as I have the honor to do it, requesting of you to kindly inform him if the note in reference was addressed to him with the authorization of the governments you so worthily represent and in their behalf, or have you subscribed it in your private position and without any official capacity. It is

highly pleasant for me to express to your Excellencies on this account the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.—
(Signed) Jesus Acuña, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic.”

I again request of you the transmission of the inserted note, hoping that you will let me know the answer of the honorable representatives to whom it is addressed.

I protest to you once more, Mr. Confidential Agent, my kindest consideration and personal regard.

(Signed) JESUS ACUÑA,

Acting Secretary.

(Doc. No. 32.)

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Veracruz, August 31st, 1915.

Honorable Jesus Acuña,

Secretary ad-interim of the Foreign Office, Veracruz, Mexico:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to inform you that your note of August 21st, where you ask me to transmit a question of the First Chief to the subscribers of the note therein referred to, was received by myself on the afternoon of the 23d inst., handed to me by Mr. Perez, and on that same afternoon transmitted by cable, via Colon, to the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States.

Allow me to express to you once more the assurances of my high consideration.

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. R. SILLIMAN,

Special Representative of the State Department.

(Doc. No. 33.)

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Veracruz, August 31st, 1915.

Honorable Jesus Acuña,

Secretary of the Foreign Office, Veracruz:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note dated the 26th inst., where you insert the answer of the Governor and Military Comander of San Luis Potosi to the subscribers of the note therein alluded to.

On this very date I am sending a copy of said note to the Department of State.

I am glad to remain, my dear Mr. Secretary, with my highest esteem,

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) JOHN R. SILLIMAN,

Special Representative of the State Department.

(Doc. No. 34.)

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Veracruz, September 4th, 1915.

Honorable Jesus Acuña,

Secretary ad-interim of the Foreign Office, Veracruz, Mexico:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In response to your note of August 21st, addressed to the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States, and to the six diplomatic representatives who signed the note sent on August 11th to the chiefs of the contending factions in Mexico, I have instructions to inform General Carranza on the following:

"I am duly authorized by the Ambassadors from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, and the Ministers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, formally and independently acting, to say: "Our signature attached to the note of August 11th was put down in our official capacity."—As to myself I do herein make the same declaration.—
(Signed) Lansing."

I have the honor to be, Sir, with high esteem,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN R. SILLIMAN,

Special Representative of the State Department.

Veracruz, September 10th, 1915.

Honorable John R. Silliman, Special Representative of the State
Department of the United States:

Mr. Representative:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your kind note dated the 4th inst., wherein His Excellency Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America, is pleased to communicate that he himself as well as their Excellencies the Ambassadors from Brazil, Argentina and Chile, and the Ministers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, signed in their official capacity the note addressed on the 15th of last August, through your kindness, to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, inviting him to meet a conference with the chiefs of the rebellious faction, to consider the Mexican situation and see to the re-establishment of peace.

In due response, I beg of you, Mr. Representative, to please transnit to their Excellencies the following textual communication:

“San Juan de Ulua Castle, September 10th, 1915.

“To their Excellencies Messrs. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America; Dionisio Da Gama, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Brazil; Eduardo Suarez Mugica, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Chile; Romulo S. Naón, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador from Argentine; Ignacio Calderon, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Bolivia; Carlos María de Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Uruguay, and Joaquín Mendez, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Guatemala—Washington, D. C.:

“Honorable Sirs: Having reported to Señor Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, the kind note in which you are pleased to advise that you signed the note you addressed on the 15th of last August, in your official capacity, inviting the Chief to attend a conference with the leaders of the rebellious faction to discuss the Mexican situation and see to the re-establishment of peace, the same First Chief has resolved that I address myself to your Excellencies, as I have the honor to do, to inform you in his behalf, as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Republic that he is, that he cannot consent to any mediation in the domestic affairs of the same, not even at the suggestion of a foreign government, since all nations have

the unavoidable duty to respect the sovereignty of each other. The acceptance of the invitation your Excellencies have been pleased to make to attend a meeting with the leaders of the rebellious faction in order to restore peace in Mexico, would hurt very deeply the independence of the Republic and her right to solve her problems by herself, and this consideration would suffice for our Government not to allow such mediation in the defense of the Mexican people's suzerainty as well as for the benefit of the other American nations.

"Apart from this fundamental reason there are some others I wish to mention so as to produce in your mind the fullest conviction of the fact that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power in assuming this attitude is moved only by the very serious duties imposed on him by his high position.

"I am sure that your Excellencies doubt not that Mexico finds herself at present stirred by a real revolution intended to rid Mexico of the last traces of the Colonial period as well as of all the errors and abuses of former administrations, and to satisfy the noble ambitions of welfare and betterment felt by the Mexican People.

"In the course of our civil strife the aspirations of the people have been growing purer; their ideals have acquired a clearer form and their leading men have become better known. Moved by the most urgent necessities for the national welfare, the First Chief has drawn a complete plan of reforms, which has served as a basis for the new social organization already started, and for the working of the Constitutional Government later on to be established.

"On the other hand, your Excellencies may have noticed in the answers received to your note addressed to the Civil and Military chiefs subordinate to the First Chieftainship, that the First Chief himself is the only authority who could solve the subject submitted to the consideration of said chiefs. These leaders set a good example of discipline and solidarity by their response, and at the same time have made it clear that the First Chief has been able to preserve the union within the Constitutionalist Government, notwithstanding the long duration of the struggle and the ignoble and constant intrigues of our enemies, intended to slacken the discipline of our army and to corrupt its main chiefs.

"Consequently, the First Chief carries on himself the enormous responsibility of materializing the national ambitions, and he cannot endanger the fate of the country by means of such a transaction, nor can he allow the enemies of the Cause he represents to take any direct part in the Government. Neither does he deem it fair nor prudent to destroy the fruit of the blood shed on the Mexican soil to walk in the path that Your Excellencies so courteously and

disinterestedly suggest, which the First Chief judges improper, by virtue of the dolorous teachings of our own experience.

"Indeed, once initiated the Revolution in 1910 by Señor Francisco I. Madero, it could not achieve full success on account of the treaty of Ciudad Juarez made with the old regime. The treaty there celebrated left the enemies of the people still standing on their feet, and was one of the main causes of the tragical happenings of February 1913, which your Excellencies ought to know, and in the development of which some foreign Ministers accredited before the Mexican Government took an active part.

"President Madero being assassinated and the mots infantous of all treasons recorded by our history being consummated, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, who at that time was Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila, assumed the attitude he had to assume according to our Constitution, denying recognition to General Victoriano Huerta as Chief of the Executive Power, and addressing an exhortation to the Governors of the other States and the military chiefs commanding troops to join his movement in order to free the Mexican people from the opprobrious dictatorship of the Usurper. The people most enthusiastically answered his call, and the struggle was a long and bloody one. The Constitutionalist party, headed by the First Chief, vanquished the Usurper, who had at his disposal the largest army ever had by the Republic; but the triumph had not been wholly achieved when the reactionaries had already bribed one of the Generals of our Army, Francisco Villa, who appeared as head of the new reactionary movement, availing himself of the powerful elements the First Chieftainship had intrusted him with, and being mainly backed by those who had supported Huerta, the Usurper. After the lamentable spectacle proffered by the Aguascalientes Convention, and after a new gory struggle, the Cause of the people once more won the unavoidable victory.

"The strife is at its end; the reactionary faction, annihilated seeks refuge in the Northern frontier, keeping under its grasp only the State of Chihuahua, a small part of the State of Sonora and the centre of the State of Morelos, which shortly shall be occupied by the Constitutionalist forces.

"The First Chief, with an army of one hundred and fifty thousand men, controls at present the greater part of the national territory, and, in the large territory subject to his authority, all the services of the Public Administration have been re-established; the public ways and roads are repaired; the railroad traffic is reopened, and in the fields as in the cities the activities of normal life are being resumed.

"In view of the above I do not doubt that your Excellencies will have the fullest conviction of the fact that in entering into any

kind of agreement with the defeated faction, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army would renounce not only the victory won at the cost of so many sacrifices, but also the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army, and the Executive Power of the Union, thus violating the faith and trust deposited in him by the Mexican People and the Army.

“Furthermore, Your Excellencies must bear in mind that the great desire of liberty and democracy this people feels is entirely legitimate, and no one has the right to prevent it from enjoying in a near future the spontaneous fruit of its dolorous struggles.

“For all these reasons, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, recommends me to tell you, as I have the honor to do it, that he regrets not to be able to accept your invitation under the conditions and for the purposes indicated. However, perfectly convinced of the sincerity and the noble wishes of Your Excellencies’ Governments to help to the re-establishment of peace in Mexico, which is bound to be soon accomplished by the armed forces of the Constitutionalist Government, and wishing to correspond to the courtesy of Your Excellencies and your noble object; finally, as a token of the good harmony and heartfelt friendship there must exist among the American Republics, the First Chief has the honor to invite you, gentlemen, to hold a conference with him, either personally or through the delegates you may appoint to that object, which conferences may be held at any of the frontier towns laying along the Bravo river and controlled by his forces, previously and in common accord fixed to that effect, in order to discuss Mexican affairs from the international point of view only; so that if Your Excellencies consider that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power, Señor Venustiano Carranza, constitutes a “De Facto” Government in the Republic, with the necessary authority to be recognized as such, you may be pleased to obtain from your governments their respective recognition of the First Chief in such capacity, which will be one more reason to draw closer relations between the peoples and the governments of Your Excellencies and the people and government of Mexico.

“I have the honor to offer you, gentlemen, on this account, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration. —Jesus Acuña, Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office.”

I avail myself of this opportunity to protest to you once more, Mr. Representative, my high consideration and special esteem.

JESUS ACUÑA, Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office.

On the 28th of last April you were pleased to offer me your good offices to find a solution, in a peaceful and friendly manner, to the conflict between the United States and Mexico. I accepted, in principle, your good offices, which you offered to all the interested parties, and you then asked me to stop all hostilities and military action between Huerta and the Constitutionalist Army under my command, because you judged that such measure should be a consequence of the acceptance made by the interested parties.

On that account I had the honor to answer you that the international conflict between the United States and this Republic, deliberately provoked by Huerta, was entirely independent from our domestic strife for liberty and right, and that it was not convenient nor fair for my country to stop said hostilities and military action, since such a suspension would only benefit Huerta.

You did not agree with my opinion, which was based not only on principles recognized by the International Law but also on the domestic sovereignty of every free country. Later on I took the liberty to ask Your Excellencies to please determine the point to be discussed at the conferences, and no answer to that note of mine has ever come to me, remaining without effect, as unofficial, the invitation you had made to me to be represented at the negotiations intended to solve the difficulties between the American nation and this country.

Under such conditions the conferences of Niagara Falls were started, trying to solve in that way an international conflict between two States, without a part of one of the powers being represented even though such party, the Constitutionalist I mean, is the largest, the one representing a great majority of the Mexican people, and finally, one with which are found Justice and Reason.

I deemed it necessary then, for your own information and that of those who erroneously thought that the Constitutionalist Army was opposed to accept the good offices offered by Argentine, Brazil and Chile, to address you a new note expressing my astonishment at the fact that an international conflict between the United States and Mexico should be discussed without taking in consideration the Constitutionalist Army under my command.

Finally, your good selves have resolved, substantially, that you will not accept the delegates of the Constitutionalist Army except under the following conditions:

First: Cessation of all hostilities and military action between Huerta and the Constitutionalist soldiers;

Second: My conformity to submit to the consideration and the council of the Mediation the differences now separating the contending parties.

With all consideration and at the same time with full conviction,

I have the honor to express to Your Excellencies my disagreement with such resolutions.

The offer made by Your Excellencies, the Ambassador from Brazil and the Plenipotentiary Ministers from Argentine and Chile, and which was accepted by the United States Government and by myself as First Chief of the Mexican Constitutionalist Army that I am, was only your good offices, and not your mediation, and the acts you are trying to carry out constitute a mediation and not mere good offices.

The International Common Law marks very clearly the difference between one thing and the other.

According to Th. Funck, Brentano and Sorel, "a State which has not taken part in the conflict between other States, may intervene, in some cases simply to help them enter into negotiations, others to continue with such negotiations if they have been suspended, or to renew them if they have been broken up, and to proceed in all good faith; in this instance that State constitutes itself a mere officious intermediary and directs all its efforts, without intervening in the negotiations, to present more clearly and synthetically the question arisen between the contending States, and to bring them in touch with each other: this is what is called "to offer one's good offices."

René Foinget, in his treatise on International Common Law, says in this respect with all exactness: "Mediation should by no means be mistaken for good offices;" there is great difference between them. Mediation is a more distinct interference than the good offices. In the mediation the third power takes a direct part in the negotiations and resolves about the bases of their agreement. In the good offices it restricts itself to exert its influence upon the States to bring them to a conference without taking a direct part in the negotiations or in the subjects to be discussed in such conferences.

The same distinction is established by A. G. Heffer in his work on European International Law, page 203, when dealing with the "Bona Officia and the Mediation."

In the Hague conferences of 1899 and 1907 for the peaceful settlement of international conflicts, important resolutions were taken in regard to good offices and mediation, clearly establishing in Articles 2 and 3 the differences there are between one diplomatic act and the other.

Now then; when Your Excellencies made to me the altruistic offer of the good offices of Brazil, Argentine and Chile, I accepted them with sincere good will because the offer made through the Honorable channel of your good selves came from three sister nations with which we Mexicans have not only the connection of Latin-American love, but also likeness of language, tradition, ideals and history. At the same time the purpose in your mind was

thought to be inspired by the greatest impartiality and the most absolute spirit of justice.

It seemed, therefore, very strange to the Constitutionalist people that your good selves should discuss our domestic questions at the Niagara conferences, as for instance, the cessation of hostilities between Huerta and the Constitutionalist Army, and, according to press reports, even our Agrarian problem and things connected with the Provisional Presidency of the Republic, which are matters of domestic policy and not belonging to Common Law. To discuss these topics, gentlemen—allow me to say it with all the friendly and cordial feelings you deserve—to discuss and try to solve, as arbiters, these domestic problems of my country, which the Mexicans only may know thoroughly and they only have the right to decide upon, is to go beyond the rendering of good offices and even beyond all friendly mediation.

Your Excellencies do not seem to be right when arguing that the acceptance of the good offices brings as a necessary consequence the suspension of hostilities; to prove my assertion I just dare recall the case of the Balkan war, when Greece agreed to fight and at the same time took part in the conferences of the mediation.

Furthermore: the international conflict between the United States and Mexico, sprung forth on account of the capture of American marines made in Tampico by Huerta soldiers; the withholding of messages belonging to the American Embassy in Veracruz, by Huerta also, and the reprisals carried out by the United States against Huerta by landing troops at the port of Veracruz.

In front of such a grave and unexpected happening, I trust that the Representatives from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, exerting their influence, with their goodwill and their diplomatic ability, will settle by means of their good offices so timely offered, and in a way satisfactory for the Mexican people, the conflict arisen as a consequence of a deed that has wounded our patriotic feelings, that is, the occupation of Veracruz, because even though according to declarations made by their Excellencies President Wilson and Secretary of War Daniels, such act was intended only to chastise the repeated offenses that Huerta inflicted on the American people, it constituted, nevertheless, a transgression of our national sovereignty, indivisible as it is, and of the independence of a free country, since we must consider that the port of Veracruz does not belong to Huerta and his accomplices, but to the Mexican Republic.

Your Excellencies have believed, perhaps, that such is not only the international conflict but it also includes our transcendental domestic affairs, which with the best purpose in view, most assuredly, from the Dominion of Canada and in diplomatic conferences, you consider may be solved to the entire satisfaction of the Mexicans.

Much to my sorrow, gentlemen, it is my duty to declare that there can be no possible agreement between crime and the law, nor

between this government and another which is illegitimate from its very inception, conducted by a man who committed treason first and then killed the President and the Vice-President of the Republic, a State Governor, several congressmen and innumerable citizens of the country.

Furthermore, the painful experience of our history compels us not to accommodate any differences with our enemies, because such a transaction would be of fatal consequences for the country later on, as were the treaties of Ciudad Juarez at the end of the Revolution of 1910.

It is necessary that our civil war, no matter how woeful it may be, follow its course until the Usurper is vanquished as well as his accomplices; until a government is established not derived from any diplomatic compositions, but merged from the very will of the Constitutionalist party, and until laws are put in force as needed and deserved by the Mexican people after an illegitimate and unfair regime of thirty years of despotism.

Remember, gentlemen, that our civil war is intended to be the foundation of the future liberty of our country.

Struggling for freedom and for the re-establishment of the constitutional regime in the Republic, we make use of our own right, following the example set by great countries: the United States, France, England and also that of our sister Republics, Argentine, Brazil and Chile.

I dare remark to Your Excellencies the Ambassador from Brazil, and the Plenipotentiaries from Argentine and Chile, that I do not consider that they have acted in full justice by laying obstacles to prevent the Constitutionalist party from being represented in the Niagara conferences, since the most proper thing would have been, considering the intention meant by an offering of good offices, to meet and overcome all possible difficulties until all contending parties got together in the conferences.

It was not done so, and consequently, the results of the Niagara meetings will not be, gentlemen, what the whole world expected them to be.

The reasons are obvious:

First: The international conflict created by the happenings of Tampico and Veracruz has not been discussed by the two nations, but by one of them and a minimum part of the other.

(It is something remarkable that the Mexican party represented in the conferences is that formed up by the Catholic clergy, the treacherous military class and the wealthy landholder.)

It is possible, and even most probable, that the decision emanated from the conferences may not satisfy the majority of the Mexican people, which has the right on its side and also is the strongest and most respectable armed power.

Second: If in the mediation conferences our domestic problems

have been discussed and decided upon, we may not be in conformity with the agreements reached, and thus we may be compelled to present, even against our desire, a courteous but firm protest assisted by the inalienable right of sovereignty belonging to every people.

We have the conviction that the respectable governments of Argentine, Brazil and Chile are not acquainted with every detail of Niagara's conferences, and we do entertain the hope that such governments and the peoples they represent once they understand our rights and our national ambitions, will recognize that Right is on our side, the same recognition being done by the people of the United States. I assure Your Excellencies that there is the highest esteem and the sincerest regard in the people of my country and in myself for the Republics of Argentine, Brazil and Chile, and I feel positive that the considerations expressed above will help the governments you so worthily represent to strengthen their idea that honor and justice are on the part of our cause, as History will surely confirm.

Considering our diplomatic negotiations as ended, I have the honor to renew to Your Excellencies the Ambassador from Brazil, Señor D. Da Gama; Minister from Argentine, R. S. Naón, and Minister from Chile, E. Suarez Mugica, the assurances of my high consideration, requesting of you at the same time to please inform your respective governments on our eager wishes that the bonds of friendship between Mexico and Argentine, Brazil and Chile may grow each day more extensive in interest and more intense in regard.

V. CARRANZA,

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

V.

CASE: EVACUATION VERACRUZ

(Doc. No. 1.)

TELEGRAM.

From Ciudad Juarez.

Received at Chihuahua, April 22d, 1914.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza:

I have received the following instructions from Mr. Bryan, Secretary of State: "Please call on Mr. Carranza and make him know the President's attitude. The President does not wish the Congress to authorize him to make war, as it might be construed. All he asks for and all that will be granted him is a resolution declaring that he is justified to resort to armed force, demanding a reparation for specified indignities. He has had special care to make a distinction between General Huerta and his followers on one hand, and the Mexican people on the other, having reaffirmed his friendship to the Mexican people and his earnest desire that the same people succeed in establishing a constitutional government. The taking of Veracruz's Custom-house became necessary on account of Huerta having refused to make the due reparations for the arrest of American marines. According to the press, the Constitutionals seem to keep away from the controversy, in a very proper attitude, and we hope they will not misunderstand the President's views nor misconstrue his acts."

I would appreciate very much an expression of yours in regard to the above, with the understanding that if you wish it, such expression will be considered as strictly confidential, intended only for the knowledge of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

CAROTHERS.

(Doc. No. 2.)

Chihuahua, April 22d, 1914.

Consul G. C. Carothers, Ciudad Juarez:

TELEGRAM.

In response to Secretary Bryan's message communicated to me through your kindness, please transmit to said Mr. Bryan the following note addressed to President Wilson:

"While we were expecting the resolution of the American Senate regarding Your Excellency's message in the lamentable incident occurred between the crew of a boat of the United States Steamship "Dolphin" and soldiers of the Usurper Victoriano Huerta, acts of hostility have been performed by the navy under the command of Almiral Fletcher at the port of Veracruz. And in the presence of this violation to the national sovereignty, which the Constitutionalist Government did not expect from a Government that has oftentimes expressed its wishes to keep peace with the Mexican people, it is my duty, and I perform it with all patriotism, to address this note to Your Excellency in order to exhaust all honorable means toward preventing that two honest peoples break the peaceful relations still uniting them.

The Mexican nation, the real people of Mexico, has not recognized as their ruler the man who has tried to dishonor the national life by drowning in blood our free institutions. Consequently the acts of Huerta the usurper and his accomplices do not constitute lawful acts of sovereignty; do not constitute real functions of common law, neither nationally nor internationally, and much less do they represent the feelings of the Mexican nation, which are feelings of fraternity toward the American people.

Victoriano Huerta's position concerning Mexico's relations with the United States as well as with Argentine, Chile, Brazil and Cuba, has been firmly established with the rightful attitude assumed by those nations' governments in denying recognition to the usurper, thus lending a valuable moral support to the noble cause I represent.

The usurped title of President of the Republic cannot invest General Huerta with the faculty to receive a demand of reparation from the United States Government nor that of granting such satisfaction, if it is due.

Victoriano Huerta is a transgressor who falls directly under the jurisdiction of the Constitutionalist Government, the only government today, on account of the abnormal situation of the country, which represents the national sovereignty according to the spirit of Article 128 of the Mexican Political Constitution. The unlawful acts committed by the usurper and his followers, and the

unlawful acts they may still commit, either of an international character as those that occurred at Tampico, or of a national character, will be judged and sentenced with all energy and in a short time by the Courts of the Constitutionalist Government.

Victoriano Huerta's own acts will never be sufficient to involve the Mexican people in a disastrous war with the United States, because there is no solidarity whatsoever between the so-called Government of Victoriano Huerta and the Mexican nation, for the fundamental reason that he is not the legitimate organ of the national sovereignty. However, the invasion of our territory, the permanence of Your Excellency's forces in the port of Veracruz, or the violation of the rights constituting our existence as a sovereign State, free and independent, would certainly drag us to an unequal but dignified war, which thus far we wish to avoid.

Before the serious situation Mexico goes through, being too weak, now more than ever after three years of bloody strife, to be compared with the formidable power of the American nation; but considering the occurrences of Veracruz as a proceeding unwarranted in the highest degree against the dignity and independence of Mexico, and in open opposition to Your Excellency's repeated declarations of wishing not to alter the status of peace and friendship between the United States and Mexico, and with the resolution passed by the Senate of Your Excellency's country, which has just declared that the United States do not assume a hostile attitude against the Mexican people nor have the intention to wage war on them; considering likewise that the acts of hostility already carried out exceed what in full equity is required for the pursued object, which may be considered as already achieved; it being not, on the other hand, Mexico's usurper the authority that is called to grant a reparation, I interpret the feelings of a great majority of the Mexican people, so zealous of their rights as respectful of the others' rights, and I dare invite Your Excellency to stop the acts of hostility already started, ordering Your Excellency's forces to evacuate the places they may have in their power in the port of Veracruz, and to present to the Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila and First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, the claim the United States Government wish to make for the incident of Tampico, with the assurance that such claim will be considered in a spirit of the most strict justice and conciliation.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA,

Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.

(Doc. No. 3.)

TELEGRAM.

New York, April 26th, 1914.

Received at Chihuahua, Via Juarez.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Constitutionalist Government:

Secretary Daniels spontaneously made yesterday the following declaration:

"I believe that the majority of the Constitutionalist are acting moved by a patriotic feeling, and their patriotism must prevail in Mexico and the Mexicans must have a Constitutional Government and the freedom needed by Mexico as by any other nation in the world. I have always upheld that a majority of the Constitutionalist is moved by the same spirit and feeling which moved Madero and his followers. They have likewise resolved and decided to attain for themselves a Constitutional Government despite any obstacle or error, and the majority of them are moved by patriotic sentiments and motives. Liberty is their ambition and it has to be acquired at any cost, in Mexico as anywhere else. The cause of the Constitutional Government will have to prevail if justice is done to it. Some one may blow on the flame of that human ambition; yet, no matter how dim it is, the American people can but feel deep sympathy for whoever is struggling to have a vote in public matters of his country and his government. The stage of absolutism is a thing of the past. There is not a movement worth considering if it does not tend to the establishment of a government by and for the welfare of the governed. It may cost many efforts, but such form of government is bound to be achieved by the Mexicans."

Respectfully,

FRANCISCO URQUIDI.

(Doc. No. 4.)

Chihuahua, Mexico, April 26th, 1914.

Honorable Isidro Fabela:

My dear Mr. Fabela:

In regard to the confidential conversation we had on the 23d inst., in which you requested of me in my private and personal

capacity to investigate whether the President of the United States would be willing to receive a high commissioner of General Carranza for the purpose of discussing with our Government, in a personal way, the actual status of things, and specially in regard to the situation created as result of the occurrences at Tampico and Veracruz, it is very gratifying for me to tell you that I have received a telegram the contents of which are substantially as follows:

In the first place I have instructions to make known to General Carranza the pleasure and appreciation felt by President Wilson on account of the friendly attitude the former assumes when he suggests that the pending questions be placed in the hands of two agents of both interested parties for their arrangement. I have been recommended to make the explanation, however, that President Wilson cannot accept, on account of the position in which he is placed, the proposal made to him while the recent declarations of General Carranza regarding Huerta and the Veracruz incident continue being interpreted in the United States as at present; but I must manifest that if General Carranza could proclaim by means of another public declaration that he remains neutral in the presence of the happenings already occurred and those which may still occur between the United States and General Huerta, and that he will not lend his help to him nor thwart the United States' efforts tending to obtain full satisfaction for the offenses made against our country by General Huerta's officials, such declaration would undoubtedly bring the early elimination of Huerta, a thing surely wished by all concerned.

The President also wishes you to declare that Huerta has undoubtedly been induced to believe that the Constitutionalists would join him against the United States; and he expresses the opinion that as soon as Huerta is convinced that the Constitutionalists will not lend him such support, he will cease committing acts which justify and compel the United States to obtain or to procure a reparation, and this will save Mexico and the Mexicans from all danger which directly or indirectly could threaten them as a result of the offenses committed by General Huerta.

The above is, substantially, the President's answer to the friendly proposition of General Carranza, who is moved, as clearly seen, by sentiments of the frankest friendship. For my part I wish to express my earnest desire that you may consider the matter in the way he indicates.

With the protests of my cordial esteem, believe me, my dear Mr. Fabela, Your sincere friend,

(Signed) MARION LETCHER.

To Mr. Marion Letcher:

I had the honor to receive with your kind official note dated the 26th inst. a copy of the report read by his Excellency the President of the United States to the Congress, asking authorization to use the sea and land forces when the occasion arrives in order to obtain full satisfaction for the affront inflicted by the person of Victoriano Huerta to your nation, at the port of Tampico.

Please transmit to His Excellency the Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, news of the enthusiastic welcome extended by the Constitutionalists to the declarations the Honorable President Wilson made to the Congress of North America.

The Constitutionalism does not doubt the loyal intentions the United States Government has manifested toward the cause we fight for; and we notice by the words in which President Wilson couches his message to the Houses a decided purpose to respect and to strengthen in American all demonstrations towards liberty and right.

Nevertheless, I beg to express to His Excellency President Wilson, through your kindness, that although the American Government's intention may have been only to vindicate the repeated affronts with which Victoriano Huerta wounded the dignity of the American people, resorting to a sort of reprisal sanctioned by the Common Law, the acts carried out in Veracruz notoriously infringe the fundamental principles of the same law.

By appreciating the intention and protesting against the deed at the same time, we believe that we place ourselves in the Mexican point of view.

The stay of foreign troops in an independent and sovereign country is an unlawful invasion, since there can be no right to act against the right of territorial inviolability.

It must be recalled, furthermore, that if a political party gets the support of a foreign invasion to win the triumph of its cause, even though such invasion be partially in its behalf, that political party fails to perform its patriotic duties. On the hand, all reprisal exceeding its proper limits ceases to be right, and since the sovereignty is indivisible, we do not admit that the measures taken thus far are only against Victoriano Huerta.

Part of the American people considers as an ultimatum my note to His Excellency President Wilson; this is an error. As the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army that I am, I sent an invitation to His Excellency the President to order the American forces to evacuate the port of Veracruz. This invitation is based on the words of Mr. Wilson himself.

"The Mexican people have the right to solve their domestic

problems in the way they seen more fit, and we have the best wishes to respect that right."

I am glad again to renew to you, Mr. Consul, the assurances of my personal regard and consideration.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 6.)

A PROTEST PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS

The Honorable President Woodrow Wilson has made the following declaration to the Congress of his country: "I sincerely hope it will not be necessary to make war. I believe I interpret the American people when I say that we do not wish to control in any way the affairs of our sister Republic. Our feelings toward the Mexican people are of pure and genuine friendship; all we have done or we have failed to do thus far, responds to the wish we have to help them, not to hinder them or lay any obstacles in their way. We do not wish even to perform the good offices of a friend without their consent and good will. The Mexican people have the right to solve their domestic problems in the way they see more fit, and we earnestly wish to respect that right."

The Constitutionlists of Mexico trust in these words of truth and justice so wisely said by President Wilson. We have the conviction that the activities of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, are based on the fundamental principles of the Common Law. It is only fair that the American people should reflect with full equanimity upon our attitude.

The permanence of the American troops in Veracruz is, unquestionably, a violation to the national sovereignty of an independent country.

We well know that the intention of the United States Government is to chastise an affront inflicted to the dignity of the American nation by Huerta the Usurper; but it is easy to realize that the punishment results not for Huerta but for Mexico, and Huerta is not the nation but a vulgar transgressor.

Huerta, who has brought intervention upon us by offending the United States, does not suffer any damage by the presence of the American soldiers in our beloved country; but we, the Constitutionlists, who are now fighting for principles of justice and freedom, do certainly feel ourselves wounded in our dignity by being always reminded that a foreign army occupies part of our territory; and although the purpose the American Government has in view is not to stain our national dignity but to help us end our civil war, such

intention does not authorize a fact which is in itself a violation of the most elemental principles of the Common Law.

Our protest is legitimate, because, at all events, intervention is not a right, since there can be no right against the law itself. That the American people may better judge our feelings, they being so zealous of their public liberties, let them think for a moment, placing themselves in our own situation, that they were in a civil war and the soldiers of a foreign country should perform in the best of their ports, New York, the offices of police while the Constitutionalist party could perform such functions. The American people without party discriminations would not approve of such fact, we are sure of it. Why, then, should we Mexicans accept a similar imposition?

Our protest is sincere, even knowing the American Government's intention to lend us its help against the usurping regime of a traitor, because we know that a political party which accepts the support of a foreign intervention in order to achieve its triumph, fails to perform its duties toward the Nation.

On the other hand, the reprisal the American Government has taken against Huerta to vindicate the affront he inflicted, is accomplished, and if such reprisal should exceed its limits, as happens in this case, it certainly would go beyond all right. The excess in the reprisal is just what serves Huerta, who wishes an international war as the only means to protect himself against the imminent disaster that awaits him, while it wounds the Constitutionlists, because we really do defend the principles of domestic and foreign sovereignty belonging to our Republic.

It is said that the American people considers as an ultimatum the note addressed by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, to President Wilson. This is a serious mistake. Mr. Carranza in his note requests the President of the United States to give his orders to the American forces for the evacuation of the places they may have taken in the port of Veracruz. Said request purports an evident right of supreme international justice, since as President Wilson expresses it, Mexico "has the right to solve her own domestic problems in the way she may deem fittest, and we eagerly wish to respect that right."

But today, most mistakenly, the integrity of our territory is not respected in Veracruz. Even taking in consideration that the permanence of part of the American Army in Veracruz is for our benefit, we must protest, and we do protest against such act, because we know that a political party tolerating an invasion in order to win victory fails to perform its political duties; but this protest of ours is not in a mode of defiance or aggression, because we know the spirit that moves it, but it is sincere because our vehement patriotism so demands it.

We the Constitutionlists have just won a triumph of great

import—the capture of Monterrey—and we expect soon the fall of Tampico. General Villa's forces advance southward from Torreon, while General Obregon's arrive at Jalisco. We shall very soon control the whole republic and law will be re-established in Mexico. It would be very regrettable that under these circumstances, at the end of the war we have waged at the cost of great sacrifices with the aid only of reason and justice, there came an international war, inconceivable for unjust, a war absolutely unrighteous, since it is not reasonable that two friendly countries esteeming each other, should be dragged into so great disaster. Fortunately for the rights of both peoples, President Wilson and the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, are men who surely hold each other in confidence for their own honorability, their honesty and their patriotism.

(Doc. No. 7.)

MEMORANDUM.

Mexico, September 8th, 1914.

President Wilson declared in his message to Congress last April that the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces was an act of reprisal intended only against General Victoriano Huerta and his followers, for the various affronts the American nation had received from the said Victoriano Huerta and his people. President Wilson declared at the same time that said acts of reprisal were in no way intended against the Mexican people, of whom he said he was a great and loyal friend.

If this be true, and Huerta and his followers have abandoned the Republic, and the army which was under his command is already disarmed, the causes have disappeared that compelled the American Government, as it expressed it, to punish Victoriano Huerta with the occupation of Veracruz.

The Mexican people and the Constitutionalist Government from the beginning protested before the nation and before the whole world against the landing of foreign troops in the first national port; and now they both find said occupation more strange each day, and several military chiefs have begun to address themselves to the Chief Executive, making representations to ask the United States for the disoccupation of that port, the uneasiness occasioned by such fact growing every day.

Their Excellencies President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan have declared that the sincerest friendship exists in the Government and the people of the United States towards the people and the Government of Mexico, and basing our action on such

sentiment, by instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, I come to tell you that the best way to demonstrate that cordial friendship is to order at once the evacuation of Veracruz.

President Wilson has expressed to us through your kindness said friendly feelings and his wishes that this country may prosper and be happy. Now then, you may express to their Excellencies President Wilson and Secretary Bryan that, trusting in that friendship they tender us and their wishes for Mexico's progress, we are certain that, understanding the high view of justice and patriotism justifying our claim, the American troops shall at once evacuate Veracruz.

I. FABELA.

(Doc. No. 8.)

TELEGRAM.

Washington, September 15th, 1914.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the satisfaction to inform you that President Wilson made this afternoon an official declaration to the effect that he had ordered the evacuation of Veracruz.

JUAN F. URQUIDI.

(Doc. No. 9.)

Excellency:

I have the honor and the real pleasure to inform Your Excellency of the following note from His Excellency the Minister from Brazil:

"Washington, September 1st, 1914.—Minister from Brazil.

Kindly deliver the following message to Vice-Consul Silliman:

"Please inform General Carranza that President Wilson is planning the withdrawal of the American troops from Veracruz, and he wishes the competent authorities to be appointed so as to turn over to them the Maritime Custom House; he wishes also to know who are the officials to whom the civil authority is to be handed. Please inquire whether it is the desire of the Federal authorities to appoint such clerks or is it wished that the American Commander choose among the residents of Veracruz the

officials to act as authorities until the proper ones are legally established.

(Signed) BRYAN.

Awaiting Your Excellency's answer, that I may give a due reply to the State Department of the United States, I have the honor to remain, with great esteem, Your obedient servant.

JOHN R. SILLIMAN,

United States Vice-Consul.

(Doc. No. 10.)

Personal correspondence of the
President of the Mexican United
States.

National Capitol, September 17th, 1914.

Mr. John R. Silliman, United States Vice-Consul, City:

Distinguished Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the note from Mr. Bryan, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, which you received through His Excellency the Minister from Brazil, and whereby I am informed that the President of the American Union, His Excellency Mr. Woodrow Wilson, is planning the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the American troops, and he wishes to have the corresponding authorities appointed to take charge of the Maritime Custom House and other offices, and I have the honor to answer said note through your kindness, in the following terms:

Please communicate to Mr. Bryan, Secretary of State of the American Union, that he may deign take it to the knowledge of His Excellency the President of the United States of America, that this Government has deemed convenient to appoint General Candido Aguilar, Governor of the State of Veracruz, to take possession of the port of that same name, which was temporarily occupied by United States forces, as well as to appoint the Federal and local authorities who will form the public administration of said port.

The Government under my charge sees with great satisfaction the attitude of His Excellency the President of the United States of America by delivering the place temporarily occupied on account

of the regrettable incident arisen between General Huerta's officers and United States marines.

May it please yourself to accept, personally, the expression of my deepest appreciation.

(Signed) **VENUSTIANO CARRANZA.**

(Doc. No. 11.)

TELEGRAM.

National Capitol, D. F., September 17, 1914.

General Cándido Aguilar,

Governor of the State,

Jalapa, Veracruz:

Please take note of the communication received from Mr. Silliman, U. S. Vice-Consul, and my answer to it

V. CARRANZA.

Excellency:

I have the honor and the real pleasure to inform Your Excellency of the following note from His Excellency the Minister from Brazil:

“Washington, September 1st, 1914.—Minister from Brazil.

Kindly deliver the following message to Vice-Consul Silliman:

“Please inform General Carranza that President Wilson is planning the withdrawal of the American troops from Veracruz, and he wishes the competent authorities to be appointed so as to turn over to them the Maritime Custom House; he wishes also to know who are the officials to whom the civil authority is to be handed. Please inquire whether it is the desire of the Federal authorities to appoint such clerks, or is it wished that the American Commander choose among the residents of Veracruz the officials to act as authorities until the proper ones are legally established. (Signed) **BRYAN.**”

Awaiting Your Excellency's answer, that I may give a due reply to the State Department of the United States, I have the honor to remain, with great esteem, Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. SILLIMAN,

United States Vice-Consul.

Distinguished Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the note from Mr. Bryan, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, which you received through His Excellency the Minister from Brazil, and whereby I am informed that the President of the American Union, His Excellency Mr. Woodrow Wilson, is planning the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the American troops, and he wishes to have the corresponding authorities appointed to take charge of the Maritime Custom House and other offices, and I have the honor to answer said note through your kindness, in the following terms:

Please communicate to Mr. Bryan, Secretary of State of the American Union, that he may deign take it to the knowledge of His Excellency the President of the United States of America, that this Government has deemed convenient to appoint General Candido Aguilar, Governor of the State of Veracruz, to take possession of the port of that same name, which was temporarily occupied by United States forces, as well as to appoint the Federal and local authorities who will form the public administration of said port.

The Government under my charge sees with great satisfaction the attitude of His Excellency the President of the United States of America by delivering the place temporarily occupied on account of the regrettable incident arisen between General Huerta's officers and United States marines.

May it please yourself to accept, personally, the expression of my deepest appreciation.

(Signed) VENUSTIANO CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 12.)

Legation of the United States of Brazil.—Mexico.

Mexico, September 23d, 1914.

URGENT.

Mr. Assistant Secretary:

The following telegram has been received today at this Legation from the State Department at Washington, the contents of which I shall appreciate if you will kindly transmit them to Señor Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power:

"There have come to the knowledge of this Government certain rumors regarding the attitude the Veracruz authorities may assume

after the evacuation, to wit: the collection of new custom duties on merchandise passed through the Custom House during the American occupation, duties which have already been paid. The collection again of all the local and municipal revenue paid in Veracruz since the American occupation, such as licenses, urban taxes, etc.

"Allow me to ask you to please call Señor Carranza's attention to the above, expressing to him that, although this Government does not give credit to such rumors, since that attitude would be entirely unfair, yet we do believe that, in order to prevent any inadequate action of his subordinates and to avoid the circulation of such rumors in Veracruz, General Carranza should give assurances in each concrete case, that the actions said rumors refer to will not be permitted.

"You will please express to General Carranza the conveniency of giving said assurances in a definite form, as soon as possible, so that there is no delay in carrying out the evacuation of Veracruz by the American forces.

"You will also call General Carranza's attention to the fact that there is in Veracruz a great number of the so-called refugees, many nuns and priests among them, who went to Veracruz for fear of their personal security while the Revolution was on, and that this Government trusts General Carranza will be willing to make it known that the Central Government of Mexico will neither favor nor allow that said persons be mistreated in any way, but he will extend them all the securities that intelligent and orderly governments give to those residing within their jurisdiction."

Expecting your prompt answer to transmit it to the State Department at Washington, it is very gratifying for me to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) J. M. CARDOSO Y OLIVEIRA.

(Doc. No. 13.)

Mexico, October 5th, 1914.

Mr. Minister:

With all attention I dare request of Your Excellency to please express to his Excellency the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, in reference to his message of September 15th, and Mr. Carranza's of the 16th, regarding the evacuation of Veracruz, that the First Chief has already given his instructions to General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the State of Veracruz, to receive the port from the authorities designated

by the American Government; that General Aguilar has appointed his representatives duly authorized to receive that city; that the same General has adopted all measures for the maintenance of order during the delivery of the city, so as to extend the protection of the law to all the inhabitants of Veracruz; that the only thing missing is the setting of the exact date for the complete evacuation of the port, in order that General Aguilar's representatives and the delegates of that Government get in accord for the delivery of the city. Therefore I request of Your Excellency to please consult President Wilson as to what is the date fixed for said act, advising him that General Funston promised to General Aguilar's delegate to be ready for embarking from the 6th to the 10th inst.

Awaiting Your Excellency's answer as soon as possible, I renew the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) FABELA, Acting Secretary.

To His Excellency J. M. Cardoso de Oliveira, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil, in charge of the American Interests.—Present.

(Doc. No. 14.)

**LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL.
MEXICO.**

The Minister from Brazil sends a cordial greeting to Mr. Isidro Fabela, Assistant Sub-secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to insert the following wire message which, through this Legation, Vice-Consul Silliman sends to him:

"No. 281. October 7th, 5 p. m.—From Washington.—Upon my arrival I learned that your answer dated October 5th, sent through the kindness of the Brazilian Minister to this Department's message dated September 22d, regarding our wishes for guaranties at Veracruz, is considered as not sufficiently explicit. The Department was informed that there are fears of the possibility that new rates be added or doubled to the mercantile tariffs and other taxes levied apart from those which have been previously paid to the American authorities on the same account. There is also information to the effect that lists have been formed with names of persons suspected to have been hostile to the Constitutionalist authorities. It is said that in these lists are included the names of the Mexicans who lent their services at the offices of the American authorities, and whose interests are left seriously threatened by the withdrawal of the American forces. The State Department believes that this information is untrue and lacks foundation; but in order that there

be no doubt as to this news and to prevent unnecessary delays for the evacuation of the American troops, the Department wishes to know immediately the truth, explicit and published in a proclamation of General Carranza, to the effect that in all those cases when the import duties and other taxes may have been previously collected by the American authorities, the bills of said payments will exempt their holder from any new payment, and also that full guaranties are to be extended to all the inhabitants except those who have committed any transgression, it being understood that having accepted a position under the American authorities by the Mexicans during the occupation of Veracruz will not be considered as an unlawful or prejudicial act, notwithstanding opposite prescriptions of any law. I respectfully request an immediate answer according to the Department's wishes.

(Signed) SILLIMAN.

(Doc. No. 15.)

National Capitol, October 13, 1914.

General Antonio Villarreal, President of the Board of Directors in the Convention of Military Chiefs of the Constitutionalist Army, Aguascalientes:

On the 10th inst. I received the note I insert herein and which was addressed to the Foreign Office by Mr. J. M. Cardoso y Oliveira, representing the American interests in Mexico:

"The Brazilian Minister cordially greets Mr. Isidro Fabela, Assistant Sub-Secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to insert the following wire message which, through this Legation, Vice-Consul Silliman sends to him:

"No. 281. October 7th, 5 p. m.—From Washington.—Upon my arrival here I learned that your answer dated October 5th, sent through the kindness of the Brazilian Minister, to this Department's message dated September 22d, regarding our wishes for guaranties at Veracruz, is considered as not sufficiently explicit. The Department was informed that there are fears of the possibility that the Mexican Government may want to levy again taxes and duties which had been previously paid to the American authorities. There is information also to the effect that lists have been formed with the names of persons suspected of having been hostile to the Constitutionalist authorities. It is said that in these lists are included the names of the Mexicans who lent their services at the offices of the American authorities, and whose interests are left seriously threatened after the withdrawal of the American forces. The State Department

believes this information to be untrue and lacking foundation; but in order that there may be no doubt as to it, and in order to prevent unnecessary delay in the evacuation of the American troops, the Department wishes to know immediately the truth, explicit and published in a proclamation by General Carranza, to the effect that in all those cases where the import duties and other taxes have been previously collected by the American authorities, the bills of said payments will exempt their holders from any new exaction, and also that full securities are to be extended to all the inhabitants except those who have committed any transgression, it being understood that having accepted a position under the American authorities by the Mexicans during the occupation of Veracruz, will not be considered as an unlawful act, notwithstanding opposite prescriptions of any law. I respectfully request an immediate response according to the Department's wishes (Signed) SILLIMAN."

The international matter referred to in the previous note being extremely delicate and of great transcendence for the autonomy of the Republic, I have deemed it convenient to carry it to the knowledge of the Convention of Generals of the Constitutionalist Army and Governors of the Union assembled in that city, that that Convention be pleased to give me their views, in order that the Executive under my charge may send a proper answer to the State Department of the United States. I had not communicated to that Assembly the pre-inserted note, because I expected that body first to be established and ready to perform its duties.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA,

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power.

(Doc. No. 16.)

FOREIGN OFFICE.

To His Excellency J. M. Cardoso y Oliveira, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States of America:

Mr. Minister:

It is highly pleasing for me to answer Your Excellency's note dated the 8th inst., where you kindly insert Mr. Silliman's telegram No. 281, of October 5th, from Washington, regarding the evacuation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Duly instructed by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, I have the honor to express to Your Excellency, for the knowledge of the

State Department at Washington, that Your Excellency's note was transmitted to the Convention of Generals of the Constitutionalist Army and Governors of the Union now assembled at Aguascalientes, in order that said body may give its opinion and Señor Carranza may then answer the above-mentioned note.

I am glad, on this account, to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Constitution and Reforms. Mexico, D. F., October 14th, 1914.

(Signed) **FABELA.**

Assistant Sub-Secretary of the Foreign Office and Acting Secretary.

(Doc. No. 17.)

National Capitol, Mexico, October 15th, 1914.

To the President of the Constitutionalist Assembly, Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes:

On the 13th inst. I transmitted to that Honorable Convention Consul Silliman's messages regarding the evacuation of Veracruz by American forces.

I expect your opinion as soon as possible, as requested in the same wire message, because I must answer at once the contents of Mr. Silliman's note. I eagerly request the Convention to give me a prompt solution, that I may not find myself compelled to publish all about said note and give the response demanded by the Nation's dignity.

(Signed) **V. CARRANZA.**

(Doc. No. 18.)

TELEGRAM.

From Aguascalientes, October 17th, 1914.

C. Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power:

URGENT.

I have the honor to inform you that this Sovereign Convention, after discussing Vice-Consul Silliman's message presented to the

Foreign Department through His Excellency the Brazilian Minister, Representative of the American interests in Mexico, in a private meeting of today the following resolutions were passed:

First.—It is not considered as necessary nor convenient that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Republic, should issue any proclamation regarding the subjects dealt with in the above-mentioned messages from Mr. Silliman, but the Executive Power should make a declaration to the press, either through the Foreign Office or directly.

Second.—Our Government should not levy taxes and duties from those who paid such revenue during the occupation of Veracruz by American forces, exempting said people from any further payment in view of the corresponding bills or receipts.

Third.—The Mexican Government will remit to the respective Courts common transgressors only, for the effects of the law.

Fourth.—The Mexican citizens who may have rendered any public services in Veracruz during the occupation of that port by the American troops, shall not be prosecuted nor molested in their properties nor shall suffer any material punishment for it.

Such are the resolutions passed by this body.

Constitution and Reforms.—Aguascalientes, October 17th, 1914.

ANTONIO I. VILLARREAL,

President of the Convention.

(Doc. No. 19.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, October 19th, 1914.

To the Generals of the Constitutionalist Army and Governors of the Union, Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes:

I have received the telegram signed by General Antonio I. Villarreal regarding the conditions the United States Government intends to impose for the evacuation of the port of Veracruz, and in which message I was informed that the Chiefs assembled there resolved:

First.—That it is not to be demanded by our Government a new payment of duties and taxes from those who paid them during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Second.—That any transgressors be remitted to the courts.

Third.—That the Mexicans who may have lent their services to the American authorities be not prosecuted.

The Generals and Governors of the Convention did not mention the main point of the question, that is, the convenience of consenting to the demands of the American Government imposing conditions for the evacuation of Veracruz.

Therefore, in my capacity as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, I dare consult again your opinion on the matter. I do so for the purpose of complying with the precedent I set myself when I deemed it necessary to consult the opinion of the military chiefs to resolve another international question in which the honor of the Nation was, as it is now, at stake. I wish that the military chiefs and the Governors be pleased to take in consideration that the exemption of duties and the extension of guaranties to public clerks to which Silliman's message refers, has been set up as a condition for the evacuation of Veracruz, and that therefore it is a measure the American Government demands of us before evacuating said port.

I also wish you to take in consideration my opinion in this regard: I believe that the exemption of duties and the amnesty to the clerks who served the invader are acts belonging to Mexico's sovereignty; acts which should be spontaneously performed by the Mexican Government without affecting the national dignity; but which, if performed as accepting the condition imposed by the American Government, would constitute a violation to our Republic's sovereignty. I also fear that if we should accommodate the wishes of the United States Government in this regard, a precedent would be set down liable to be of fatal consequences for our future relations with that country so far as our sovereignty is concerned. On the other hand, it is not altogether groundless to fear that the Mexicans who carry certain responsibility on their shoulders may take refuge under the protection of the American Government, originating future international claims for acts and persons directly belonging to the national sovereignty of the Republic.

I expect your answer in order to act at once in this case.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 20.)

TELEGRAM.

Aguascalientes, October 22d, 1914.

First Chief V. Carranza, Mexico:

In response to your message of the 19th inst. and in behalf of this Convention, I beg to tell you that in your said message you

make no reference whatever to the first resolution contained in the report submitted by the committee your note was put before and you also changed the order of said resolution, which may be due to said report having been transmitted with interruptions. Therefore I am again transmitting it to you in full that you may reconsider it.

The Special Committee, after a long and conscientious study of the message addressed by Mr. Silliman, United States Vice-Consul, to our Foreign Office through His Excellency J. Cardoso de Oliveira, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States in Mexico, has the honor to submit to the consideration of the Assembly the following resolution:

First.—We do not consider necessary nor convenient that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army should issue a proclamation regarding the subjects dealt with in Mr. Silliman's message, but the First Chief himself should make a declaration to the press either directly or through the Foreign Office.

Second.—The payment of duties and taxes by those who have paid them during the occupation of Veracruz by the American troops is not to be demanded by our Government, such persons being exempted from the said payment if the corresponding bills are exhibited.

Third.—Only common transgressors shall be remitted to the corresponding courts by the Mexican Government.

Fourth.—The Mexican citizens who may have accepted a public government position in the port of Veracruz during its occupation by the American forces will not be prosecuted nor molested in their properties nor subject to punishment of any kind.—Aguascalientes, etc., etc."

We also thank you for the transmission to this Convention of your note of October 5th addressed to the State Department at Washington through the Brazilian Minister in Mexico.

Yours respectfully,

S. M. SANTOS, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 21.)

TELEGRAM.

Soledad, Veracruz, October 24th, 1914.

Mr. V. Carranza, Mexico, D. F.:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received news from Veracruz to the effect that if within three days General Funston

does not receive orders to leave that port, he will have to land his troops and cavalry again, because he has no supplies on board. Since there is great excitement in the port and among our troops, if such landing is carried out I fear there will be friction between our people and the invaders. I am also informing you that I ordered my outposts to fall back on Limoncito, in order to avoid clashes, and despite this measure American soldiers go out exploring even close in front of our outposts. Please tell me if I may address a note to General Funston, protesting against the explorations practiced by his troops. It is urgent to define at once the situation. Our forces are unanimously eager to fight the invaders.

Respectfully,

General C. AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander.

(Doc. No. 22.)

Mr. Minister:

Referring again to Your Excellency's kind note dated the 8th inst., I have the honor to tell you, by express instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, and in order that you may be pleased to communicate it to the State Department at Washington, the following:

In the above-mentioned note, the State Department of the United States considers as insufficiently explicit my message of the 5th inst., and requests that the First Chief in charge of the Executive Power of this Republic, Mr. Carranza, issue a proclamation publicly declaring:

First.—That the persons who may have paid their custom duties and any other taxes to the American authorities in the port of Veracruz, are not under the obligation to pay again the same duties and taxes to the Mexican authorities.

Second.—That upon the withdrawal of the American troops full assurances will be given to all the inhabitants of said port, excepting those who have committed any common transgression; and,

Third.—That all those persons who lent their services to the American authorities during the occupation by them of the City of Veracruz, will not be considered as enemies and shall also enjoy the full protection of the law.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza, in charge of the Executive Power, has given me full instructions to express to Your Excellency that

such request from the State Department has seemed to him most unexpected in so far as it may be considered as a previous condition of the American Government to evacuate the port of Veracruz, since His Excellency William Jennings Bryan addressed a message to Mr. Carranza on the 15th of September, stating that the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the American forces was about to begin. In that message no mention whatsoever was made of conditions of any kind to carry out said move. Furthermore, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power, gave full instructions to General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the port of Veracruz, in order that he, as the First Chief's representative, might conclude all necessary arrangements with the person designated by the American Government to deliver the city, said representatives being already in full accord as to the way the city will be turned over to General Aguilar, and, on the other hand, this Chief having already issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Veracruz.

Consequently, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, in Chargé of the Executive Power, cannot make declarations in compliance with the conditions wished by the American Government, because all matters connected with such conditions surely belong to the exclusive initiative of the authorities. If the case assume an international character, it affects the national sovereignty of the Republic.

As the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Republic, considers that this matter must be satisfactorily concluded for the best harmony between both countries, I earnestly request of you to please request of the State Department at Washington to adhere to its explicit resolution of September 15th, and set the time for the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the United States forces, instructing its representative so as to have him act in accordance with General Candido Aguilar, and proceed to conclude the last arrangements for the evacuation of our port.

Allow me to renew to you, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Constitution and Reforms. Mexico, October 27th, 1914.

(Signed) FABELA.

To His Excellency J. M. Cardoso de Oliveira, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States of America.—Present.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL.

The Brazilian Minister extends his compliments to Mr. Isidro Fabela, Assistant Sub-Secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to insert the following message dated the 1st inst., just received from the State Department at Washington:

"You may tell the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs that the telegram of this Department dated the 15th of September, to which he refers, expressly says that the President is laying the necessary plans for the withdrawal of the American troops from Veracruz and that the message from this Department sent on September 22d was supplementary of the arrangements which were under consideration according to the very telegram of September 15th. This Government is ready to proceed at any time to evacuate Veracruz; but in view of the fact that it has promised to obtain certain assurances for the Mexican citizens who were induced by General Funston to co-operate with him for the managing of the Custom House and the municipal matters of Veracruz, it considers itself under the obligation to keep its promises. The same is applicable to the promises made to the merchants who received goods through the port of Veracruz. All details of arrangement for the proposed evacuation of Veracruz have been finished for a long time except the guaranties asked from General Carranza. This Department of State understands that General Carranza referred these matters to the Aguascalientes Convention, and in view that the said Convention gave a favorable answer to the petitions of this Department, we expected that there would be no cause for any further delay on the part of General Carranza. The Department does not consider that the proclamation of General Aguilar is the result of its petitions, since the Central Government of Mexico might feel justified in repudiating the guaranties promised by General Aguilar in his proclamation of September 22d. You may assure the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs that this Government is not disposed to delay the evacuation of Veracruz, and that as soon as General Carranza gives definitive assurances, according to the petitions contained in this Department's message of September 22d, the date will be fixed for the evacuation without further delay. (Signed) Robert Lansing, Acting Secretary."

To make it more clear, the undersigned has the pleasure to send herewith a copy of the English text of the inserted note, and avails this opportunity to renew the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

Mexico, November 2d, 1914.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Acting Secretary.—Present.

(Doc. No. 24.)

TELEGRAM.

From Santa Fe, November 6th, 1914.

Received at Cordoba.

Assistant Sub-Secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

The Chamber of Commerce of the port of Veracruz addressed to me yesterday the following message:

"We happen to know that the United States Government imposes, among other conditions to evacuate this port, that the Mexican Government pledge itself not to collect fiscal taxes of all kinds which have been paid to the American authorities of this port during the time of the occupation. We are firmly convinced that our national government will never demand such payment of taxes, because it is so to be expected from the attitude assumed in other epochs on account of happenings similar to the occupation of Veracruz, and the very remarkable circumstance that since the occupation of Veracruz the Mexican Government has not demanded any import duties when such duties were collected by the "De Facto" Custom House established in Veracruz. But be it as it may, we the undersigned, Mexican citizens some of us, for the sake of our decorum and patriotism, and others, foreigners, by the sympathy we feel for this country, which we love as our country of adoption, neither wish nor can admit the United States Government to give us any protection on the point we have made reference to, willingly submitting ourselves to the Mexican Government, which, without the pressure of any foreign government, will resolve in all justice regarding the exemption of all kinds of fiscal duties."

I am transmitting this to you, that you may kindly put it before the First Chief, so that if he deems it convenient he may communicate it to the Washington Government.

Respectfully,

C. AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander.

(Doc. No. 25.)

From Santa Fe,

To Veracruz, November 7th, 1915.

Messrs. Garcia de la Lama & Company, M. R. Rodriguez, C. R. Carranza and others:

After giving your kind note the due consideration, I beg to express the satisfaction of my Government for its contents. The Mexican people knew well what to expect from the people of Veracruz, who are worthy citizens, and of the foreigners residing there, who consider Veracruz as their home land. Your attitude is so decorous that it really uplifts and exalts the national dignity. You do well in supposing that the Government of the Republic, as well as the State Government under my charge will, as all precedents show, consider the tax-collecting question your note refers to within a spirit of strict justice. It will be seen that Veracruz and the elements constituting its created interests have confidence in the Government of the Republic, being sure of its righteousness and patriotism.

While I acknowledge receipt of your said note, please all and each one of you accept my congratulations for your behavior, which so clearly denotes your true patriotic feelings.

Truly yours,

(Signed) CANDIDO AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander of the State.

(Doc. No. 26.)

TELEGRAM.

From Santa Fe to Veracruz.

November 7th, 1914.

Mr. President of the Chamber of Commerce:

I have taken notice, with very high satisfaction, of the note addressed to me by the Honorable Chamber of Commerce of that city. Not only my Government, but our State and the whole country, expected this proof of patriotism from the Mexican business men and this token of love to our Republic from the foreign elements who, being resident here, consider Mexico as their country of adoption. Both are right in supposing that the National Government is perfectly willing, as well as the State authorities, to solve with strict justice the case of the fiscal taxes referred to in your said note, and which was meant as a condition intended to be imposed on Mexico for the evacuation of the port—an act against the national dignity.

Within and outside the country—especially the American Government—shall see the patriotic love displayed by the business men

of Veracruz, who favor the endeavors of the good citizens of the State and the eager efforts of the Government towards the prompt solution of our international difficulties.

While acknowledging receipt of the above mentioned note of yours, I beg to express to the Chamber of Commerce that the Government will bear in mind your patriotism, and we have hearty congratulations for the patriotic attitude of those who signed the note. Truly yours.

(Signed) General CANDIDO AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander of the State.

(Doc. No. 27.)

Orizaba, Veracruz, November 8th, 1914.

I had the honor to submit to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, the note of yours dated the 6th inst., wherein you insert for the said First Chief's knowledge the application made by the Honorable Chamber of Commerce of the port of Veracruz in regard to the attitude lately assumed by the State Department at Washington concerning the evacuation of Veracruz by the United States forces.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, has given me his instructions to tell you in his behalf that it has been extremely satisfactory for him to see that while the American Government imposed as condition for their troops to leave Mexican territory the protection of the inhabitants of the port by our authorities, so far as taxation was concerned, that Honorable Corporation declares not to be willing to accept that a foreign Government extend to it any protection, agreeing with the action our authorities, without any pressure from outside, may deem fit to take according to justice.

At the same time it is very pleasing for me to tell you, Mr. Governor, that in response to the applications of the Chamber of Commerce and of the owners and managers of Veracruz houses, moved by the greatest patriotism and full confidence in our authorities, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power, will issue today a proclamation granting the exemption of federal taxes which may have been paid to the "De Facto" authorities of the port of Veracruz during the occupation by the American forces.

As to the taxes belonging to the State and falling under the sovereignty of your government, you, Mr. Governor, will take the measures your sound judgment will advise you to, the Executive

doubting not that they will be in full accordance with the spirit of the rightful answers you have addressed to the signers of the above-mentioned applications.

It will please the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army very highly that you be the worthy channel to make known congratulations of the Chief Magistrate to the Honorable Chamber of Commerce of the Port of Veracruz, for their application so full of dignity and patriotism, proper of every Mexican citizen.

Please accept, Mr. Governor, with my cordial congratulations for your fine and transcendental endeavors in this matter, the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration and personal regard.

Constitution and Reforms.

(Signed) FABELA,

Assistant Sub-Secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the State of Veracruz.

(Doc. No. 28.)

Orizaba, Veracruz, November 8th, 1914.

With the highest satisfaction I received yesterday the note wherein you are so kind as to insert the application made by the owners and managers of city property in Veracruz, as well as the worthy and fair answer you gave.

I presented at once both notes to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, who after a careful perusal of them resolved that I should express to you, for you to transmit it to the signers of the said application, that the First Chief has seen with great pleasure that the Mexicans and foreigners residing in Veracruz, comprehending their duties and the obligations of the Mexican Government he has the honor to preside over as First Magistrate of the Republic, emphatically decline to accept the protection asked in their behalf by the United States Government before evacuating the port, and explicitly say that they will submit to the resolutions the Mexican Government freely and spontaneously may deem fit to take, in regard to the paying of taxes already collected by the foreign authorities.

Please express to them, Mr. General, in behalf of the Executive Mr. Venustiano Carranza, that it was never the Government's intention to levy once more the taxes already paid, and basing its

action on that purpose, and as a consequence of the noble and patriotic attitude they assumed, appreciating the intervention of the Honorable Chamber of Commerce of that port, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army will issue a proclamation relieving from the payment of taxes and any other kind of Federal revenue the taxpayers who may have paid their duties to the American authorities, the Executive thus acting with entire justification and equity, and thus safeguarding with all dignity the national sovereignty.

(Doc. No. 29.)

Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Chargé of the Executive Power of the Mexican United States, using the extraordinary faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The Chamber of Commerce and a greater part of the owners and managers of urban property located in the port of Veracruz have addressed themselves to the Executive under my charge, declining to accept the protection asked in their behalf by the United States Government before evacuating that port, expressly stating that they will obey the dispositions that in full justice may be dictated by the Mexican Government as to the collection of fiscal duties and taxes already paid to the foreign authorities, because they deem it so convenient for the national interests;

Therefore, I do hereby proclaim the following:

Article I.—When the Mexican authorities occupy the port of Veracruz, they will not levy from the inhabitants of that port the payment of duties or any other kind of taxes of a Federal nature which may have been previously paid to the foreign authorities which temporarily occupied that place.

Article II.—In order to enjoy the exemption established in the previous chapter of this Proclamation, it will be enough for the taxpayers to present at the respective collecting offices the documents showing that the payment was made to the authorities established during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Let this be immediately published and obeyed.

General Headquarters at Cordoba, Veracruz, November 8th, 1914.

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union.

To the Secretary of the Treasury, Mexico, D. F.

(Doc. No. 30.)

Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the Free and Sovereign State of Veracruz, using the faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The Government under my charge has the obligation to extend its protection to those who have paid their fiscal duties in the port of Veracruz to the American authorities, and that protection must consist in not collecting again the taxes paid, as a measure of full equity; and,

Whereas.—A great majority of the inhabitants of said port recognize that the Mexican Government is the only authority which must protect them, and they willingly submit to its benignity, acting in the spirit of true patriotism;

For all these considerations I have deemed it convenient to issue the following proclamation:

Article I.—Upon the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the American forces and its occupation by the Mexican authorities, the inhabitants shall not be demanded the payment of any fiscal taxes either of the State or of the municipium, whatever their nature may be, if such taxes have been previously paid to the foreign authorities during the occupation of that place.

Article 2.—In order to enjoy the exemption alluded to in the previous article, it will be enough for the taxpayers to exhibit in the respective collecting offices the documents showing that the payment was made to the foreign authorities during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Let this be published and made know for its compliance with.

Signed at the City of Cordoba, on the 10th of November, 1914.
—General Candido Aguilar, Governor of the State.—José Dominguez, Assistant Secretary of the State Government.

(Doc. No. 31.)

On this date I have received from the clerks of the American authorities of Veracruz the following application:

“General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the State: We have had knowledge that among the conditions demanded by the American Government to evacuate Veracruz there figures one regarding our situation as clerks of the regime imposed on us by the occupying forces. If very special circumstances placed us in conditions to be employed by that regime, under the consideration that there was no declaration of war but a good disposition towards the popular revolution of which you formed an essential part, this does not mean that we should see ourselves compelled to accept the foreign tutorship in matters of the exclusive national incumbence, more so since we have the conviction not to have affected the sentiment of our patriotic decorum. No punishment it to be expected for the services we lent to society and to the Nation rather than to the invaders, since by acting thus we avoided

the exclusive control of the foreign invaders; but even though the case were such, we would rather submit to the consequences than being an obstacle to the eminently patriotic purpose of achieving the evacuation of this port. We understand that it pertains to the national sovereignty to resolve such questions of a domestic character, and being moved by an eager feeling of nationalism, we request of you to take in consideration the declaration made in these lines in the sense that we wish the international conflict to be solved by means of the peaceful diplomatic arrangements already started, but without abdicating our republican sovereignty nor forgetting the sacred independence of our Nation. We request of you, Mr. Governor, to tell this to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, using before him your good offices, so that while our note receives the due attention, our patriotism becomes evident and the erroneous interpretations given to our behavior disappear. If necessity or error carried us to take a foolish step, we never did it to stain our dignity, which we will never do, and we stand ready to help in the solution of the serious difficulties of an international character in which Mexico finds herself, preventing our sovereignty from being affected in the least, saving always the decorum of our country.

"Please accept the assurances of our respect and consideration.

"Veracruz, November 9th, 1914.

"(Signed) F. Enriquez H., M. Ceballos, E. C. García Llanos, Antonio C. Motl, Francisco Daniel, Ramón Castillo, Fernando Baca, C. Espinol, José Jiménez, Gustavo García, Pablo San Germán, F. Martínez Carreón, L. Z. O. González, Carlin Felipe, Rafael Morán, M. Ocampo, A. G. Ulíbarri, and many other names."

I take pleasure in transmitting the above to that Department for the knowledge of the First Chief in charge of the Executive Power, including copy of the reply given to that application by this Government.

Cordoba, November 10th, 1914.

(Signed) C. AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander.

To the Assistant Secretary, Acting Secretary, Mexico, D. F.

(Doc. No. 32.)

Messrs. F. Enriquez, H. M. Ceballos, E. C. García Llanos and others:

I have read the contents of your kind note dated the 9th inst., wherein you are pleased to inform the Government under my charge of your patriotic wishes regarding the solution of the international difficulties we have, according to our dignity and patriotic decorum, and the inconveniences which in the opinion of the American Government arise on account of the occupation of Veracruz.

You express your intention not to be an obstacle for the definitive arrangements the foreign offices of both countries are carrying on to find a peaceful and honorable solution to the said international problem.

Indeed, as you kindly express it, among the conditions imposed to order the evacuation of the port, there is one—that the Mexican Government must extend full guaranties to those who were employed by the American regime at Veracruz—being Mexicans—that they be respected in their lives and interests despite the legal prescriptions on Mexican citizens who lend their services to foreign regime.

Taking in consideration the reasons you express in your above mentioned application, I have transmitted it to the Chief Executive of the Nation in order that he may resolve on the matter, and I upheld your petition according to the good reasons you offer.

Since the motives of your attitude are of a special nature, and you are moved by your patriotic feelings, and you acted in all good faith without diminishing the national dignity, I have not hesitated in recommending your case to the First Chief, that he may bear it in mind when called upon to solve the conflict.

Allow me to express to you my cordial congratulations for the love of your country shown in the note I do answer hereby, and to assure you that your attitude is bound to banish any ill-conceived doubt as to your patriotism.

I shall soon have the pleasure to communicate with you in regard to the solution of your application.

Constitution and Reforms. Cordoba, Veracruz, November 10th, 1914.

(Signed) C. AGUILAR,

Governor and Military Commander of the State of Veracruz.

(Doc. No. 33.)

Cordoba, Veracruz, November 10th, 1914.

General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander:

In reply to the kind note wherein you were pleased to transmit the application you received from several clerks who lent their services to the public Administration of Veracruz during the occupation of that port by the United States forces, I have the honor to inform you that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, was highly satisfied to learn of the patriotic attitude assumed by the said clerks when they express in all justice that they do not want to be an obstacle to the patriotic purpose of achieving the prompt evacuation of the port, considering that the national sovereignty is the only one to which corresponds the solution of matters of a domestic character, as for instance the extending to them of the protection of the law after the foreign troops evacuate the port.

In view of the attitude so full of patriotism and dignity adopted by the above-mentioned citizens, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, has deemed fit to issue a proclamation, a copy of which I am glad to include, and as you will see, all clerks in conditions similar to the people who signed the application, are thereby pardoned.

While communicating to you the above, Mr. General, I am highly pleased to send you my congratulations for the patriotic behavior of the inhabitants of Veracruz, reassuring you of my high consideration and personal regard.

Constitution and Reforms.

FABELA,

Acting Secretary.

(Doc. No. 34.)

Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican United States, using the extraordinary faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The clerks, Mexicans or foreigners, who have lent their services to the authorities established at the port of Veracruz during its occupation by the United States forces, have addressed themselves to this First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army, through the Governor and Military Commander of that State,

spontaneously expressing that they recognize the National Government as the only authority called upon to resolve all questions of a domestic character, as for instance the punishment or pardon of those who, like the signers of the petition, have lent their services to the mentioned authorities;

Whereas.—They do expressly declare that they submit to the decisions of the National Government, wishing not to be an obstacle to the patriotic purpose of achieving the prompt evacuation of Veracruz; and

Whereas.—The spontaneous and patriotic attitude assumed by said citizens makes them deservors of pardon for the penalty they may have incurred on, therefore: let the following "Proclamation" be issued:

General amnesty is hereby granted to all persons who lent their services as clerks in the several branches of the public administration temporarily acting during the occupation of Veracruz by forces of the United States of America.

Let this be made known to the Federal and State authorities concerned, for its immediate publication and compliance.

Constitution and Reforms. General Headquarters, Cordoba, November 9th, 1914.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

To Eliseo Arredondo, Acting Secretary of State, Mexico, D. F.

(Doc. No. 35.)

General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the Free and Sovereign State of Veracruz:

We, the undersigned, in behalf of the people of Veracruz, have the honor to address ourselves to you requesting the transmission of the present to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, that the First Chief may know their desire to have the United States forces evacuate this port, to which effect we join the First Chief in his endeavors to have our rights and the justice of our cause fully recognized and respected. Our desire is that our country may finally recover its independence, so dearly won, and that our people may feel themselves free from any foreign intervention. The President of the United States, by disoccupying this port, will have given to history an opportunity to vindicate his name and show that he did not act against all reason and justice, by sheer force, imposing his will on a gallant people that had been weakened by long civil strife.

The people of Veracruz, the most directly affected by the stay of foreign troops on our soil, never did nor ever shall consent to the humiliating situation in which the determination of the American ruler has placed us, more so since neither the people of Veracruz nor the Mexican people in general are responsible for acts performed with the acquiescence of the so-called government that has just been overthrown.

If the occupation of this city by United States forces was by all means unjustified, their stay here in the present moments is as unfair as unreasonable, because the causes for such action have now disappeared.

The permanence of said troops in our city wounds our dignity, because it is not based on any practical ground and because it seems humiliating to us, and we cannot forget that our country won its liberty in heroic battles, and we therefore have the right to be respected and shown all the consideration demanded by the national dignity and consistent with our history and the friendly relations binding us with the great American Nation.

The incident provoked by the capture of several United States marines at the port of Tampico, was considered by the President of the United States as a serious offense to the American flag, and he therefore sustained the claims of Admiral Mayo when that chief demanded the American flag to be saluted as a reparation.

We do not deem it timely nor convenient to discuss the right General Huerta's troops may have had to act the way they did, but we certainly have justice on our side when we assure, as we have assured and demonstrated with the corroboration of eminent authorities in international law, that said act having been performed by orders of a subordinate to Victoriano Huerta, and this man having no other signification but what he had usurped by sheer violence, never recognized by the American President, the Mexican people could never be responsible for the incident, and, therefore, it was not fair to demand that the Mexican flag and the roar of our guns make the reparation for an offense which, if it ever existed, could not be considered as an offense made by Mexico nor by any lawful representative of the country.

In short, there has been no offense whatever from the Mexican people to the honor or dignity of the United States, and therefore there is no reason to offer for the acts performed in demand of an undue reparation.

The difficulties arisen, not exactly between two friendly nations, but between a ruler erroneously called such, and the President of a great people, should have never been sufficient cause for the aggression made on our national sovereignty, because such a measure would tend to create hatred and rancor between two nations which, on account of their geographical position, their intense commercial relations and their frequent vows of friendship, were

under the obligation to respect each other, the Mexican Republic having given no cause for any nation to attempt against its dignity.

Great was the surprise of the inhabitants of Veracruz to see the landing of armed marines, who, obeying orders from Washington, undertook to capture the main Federal buildings, the postoffice, the telegraph stations, the Custom House and the railroad station. The developments were as unexpected as swift. A few men of our people and a handful of soldiers checked for more than twenty-four hours the advance of the enemy, and when the people surrounded the Military Headquarters asking for arms to defend the honor of the country, the answer came that there were no arms, the news being made public that General Gustavo A. Salas, representative of Huerta and Military Commander of the port, had fled with his staff, while a few men protected his rearguard.

It is certain that if the people had suspected the resolution of the American troops, they would have been always ready to defend their legitimate rights; we would have placed in safety our women and children, and even without the co-operation of that cowardly military chief, the people would have sold their lives very dearly; but who could ever have guessed that, without any previous declaration of war, the President of the United States would order the landing of his troops to occupy buildings belonging to the Mexican Nation and not personally belonging to Victoriano Huerta?

By performing such act of war without any previous declaration and with no reason to justify it, not only was the Mexican people made responsible for deeds not its own, but a grave offense was inflicted on such people by invading their territory, which is sacred, and we have tolerated it not on account of lacking patriotism, but because we must have prudence to save the Nation by means of friendly endeavors to prevent further complications.

By the occupation of Veracruz, the Mexican people, far from being the offender, is the offended party in high degree. Such an unjust resolution will never be justified unless its ground be the right of force, which may be very efficacious under certain circumstances, but could never be held up to the contemplation of the world without shame on the part of our invaders.

Six and a half months have elapsed since our flag was hauled down from the topmasts of our Federal buildings.

The President of the American Union, despite the serious wrong inflicted on all of us, publicly declared not long ago that he felt a lively interest for the prosperity of the Mexican people.

This people listened to his speech, but always having in mind that the invasion of part of our territory by the United States forces without any reason is in opposition to the friendly expressions of concord made by the American President.

The causes have disappeared which, according to the American criterion, caused the occupation of this city, an incident that we, the

people of Veracruz, will always lament, and we are sorry to think of the sentence that history shall pass on the American people for having acted so against the principles of justice they claim to possess.

The unlawful government of Victoriano Huerta is no more, and yet the offense committed against Mexico becomes worse every day. The American forces still remain in Veracruz, and we consider that the moment is at hand when the President of the United States must learn our real situation, not through the reports of his special delegates, whose personality deserves all our respect, but who, nevertheless, see things in a wrong light; nor through the report of any of his official elements actually in Veracruz, who naturally have to be against our wishes; neither through those who, availing themselves of our situation, may obtain great profits from their business; not through the endeavors of those who, protected by the American rifles, can make their living much easier here than anywhere else; not through the friends of Victoriano Huerta, who, disseminated all over the great American territory, exhibit us as wild bandits anxious of destruction; not through the applications of those who, under the wing of the overthrown government, in a few months accumulated great wealth; not through the suggestions of those who hate our race; not through the perversity of those who, far from the authority they unjustly held in their hands, now wish in their grudge the destruction of the Republic; but as a result of the frank, conscientious, honest and open claims of the people of Veracruz, of the whole people of the country, who have no ambition except seeing their country entirely free and to place the reins of the state in the hands of honest people, that there may be order, morality and justice—especially justice, which is the fundamental basis for the progress of the peoples. We eagerly wish for the national prosperity, we want to be the lords and masters of this part of the world that Nature gave us, and we suffer now the greatest sorrow of seeing the invading troops in the streets of the heroical city, our public buildings occupied by American officers, and we see, aggravating our distress, that the offense inflicted upon us increases every day instead of being corrected.

This people has acted up to the present with all moderation, so as to prevent any further complications of a serious nature between the two nations, but we wish the President of the United States to know that we feel deeply wounded by the fact that the American troops remain in the city. We want our protest to be recorded against the humiliation inflicted upon our nationality; we wish to make it known that if the occupation of the city was effected without any sound reason or right of any kind, as demonstrated in the body of this note, much less is the reason for said troops to remain here in Mexican territory, and acting this way annuls the pledges of friendship made by President Wilson before the whole world.

The President of the United States imposes the following conditions for the evacuation of the port:

First.—That no custom duties nor any other Federal or municipal tax be collected from persons who had made the corresponding payment during the occupation of Veracruz.

Second.—That full guaranties be given to the Mexican interests located in the port and the lives even of those who have been hostile to the Constitutionalist movement.

Third.—That the First Chief, in charge of the Executive Power, proclaim that the Mexicans who lent their services to the American Government have not committed any unlawful act and therefore will not be prosecuted.

Fourth.—That although the proclamation of General Candido Aguilar is in accordance, to a certain extent, with the purposes followed by the American Government, it is necessary that the Federal Government ratify or sanction the declarations contained in such Proclamation.

Regarding the first point, the Chamber of Commerce of this city has already expressed in a separate note that they decline the protection the American Government wishes to impart, since such Chamber is perfectly convinced that no additional duties will be charged, having all confidence in the honesty of the actual Governor and Military Commander of the Constitutionalist Government.

On the other hand the taxpayers simultaneously presented an application of a similar nature.

As to the second point, the people of Veracruz may assure, by their honor, that full guaranties shall be enjoyed by all the inhabitants of the port, nationals as well as foreigners, without considering the little or no sympathy that some of them may have shown for the Constitutionalist movement, provided in the future they respect the new political organization and do not hinder the development of the new Government's plans.

President Wilson must consider that the business men and taxpayers trust in the declarations made by the Governor of the State, when by not admitting the protection the American Government wishes to extend them, they tacitly recognize the truthfulness of the Governor; but it must not be demanded, without violating once more the sovereignty of our country, that the individuals who may have committed any transgression be not subjected to the courts, because such proceeding, besides being very unmoral, would place the new government in an equivocal and little respectable position, and would deprive it of the right and duty to punish the transgressors in the future, since all of them would claim to be under the proclamation demanded; and, something which would still be more serious, the unquestionable right of the national courts to apply our laws would be destroyed, despite the fact that said laws have been

created and sanctioned by means of legal proceedings recognized by the whole civilized world.

In regard to the third point, we consider that the demand included in it also curtails to a great extent our national rights, and we beg to call attention to the declarations made by General Aguilar regarding this point, where it is seen that the Mexicans who were employed by the American Government will not be prosecuted, since the only penalty that would fall upon them for having served a foreign regime would be their being deprived of their rights of citizenship for a certain length of time.

Concerning the fourth point, we firmly believe that not only is our national dignity more deeply wounded by it, but also the personality of the actual Governor of the State is openly offended thereby.

It must be borne in mind that General Aguilar was officially commissioned by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, to receive the city of Veracruz, with full authority to treat, negotiate and agree with the Chief of the American forces on any subject, and for this reason any declaration made by General Aguilar must be considered as an official declaration made in behalf of the whole Nation, previously authorized by the Chief Executive.

In the protocol extended on account of the evacuation of the city, any obligation assumed by General Aguilar must have a lawful character. The entire Nation will faithfully observe and perform it.

For all the above, the people of Veracruz respectfully ask the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, that in the diplomatic negotiations now carried on, he be pleased to interpret this application as the genuine expression of the popular feelings, because even though we have been very prudent so as not to hinder such negotiation, this does not mean that we should be content with the presence of American troops on National territory, for no honest Mexican could ever be satisfied with it. We all remember the heroic sacrifices of the Mexican people to win and keep our independence and impose respect for the country's sovereignty. More in earnest would we struggle now when it is clear that the occupation of our port and the stay of the foreign troops here is perfectly unlawful and unfair.

The Mexican people wishes to live at peace with the other peoples of earth, but we dare remember that there can not be peace when the others' rights are not respected.

Please accept, Mr. Government, the assurances of our high consideration.

Veracruz, November, 1914.

(Signed) José González, M. Campos, A. Rodríguez, Manuel Rendón, M. Sánchez, Arcadio Suazo, M. D. Carballo, M. M. García, Carlos Medina, L. B.—Enrique Tenorio, Francisco Paris Murillo, Juan J. Rodríguez, Miguel Acosta, and more signatures.

(Doc. No. 36.)

Cordoba, November 10th, 1914.

To his Excellency J. Cardoso de Oliveira, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States of America, Mexico:

Mr. Minister:

Referring to Your Excellency's note dated November 2d, regarding the evacuation of Veracruz by the United States forces, by orders of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, I have the honor to express to Your Excellency the following:

The Chamber of Commerce, the owners of urban properties in the port of Veracruz, and the men who lent their services in the several branches of the public administration of the port during its occupation by the American forces, addressed themselves to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, expressing that the taxpayers would gladly subject themselves to the resolutions taken by the National Government regarding the collection of fiscal duties already paid to the American authorities who have controlled the city, and that the clerks referred to would also obey the dispositions dictated by the Mexican authorities. The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, in view of the attitude assumed by the Chamber of Commerce, the owners of urban property and the above-mentioned clerks, deeming it convenient to the national interests, issued the following proclamations, dated the 8th and the 9th inst.:

I, VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican United States, using the extraordinary faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The Chamber of Commerce and a greater part of the owners and managers of urban property located in the port of Veracruz have addressed themselves to the Executive under my charge, declining to accept the protection asked in their behalf by the United States Government before evacuating that port, expressly stating that they will obey the dispositions that in full justice may be dictated by the Mexican Government as to the collection of fiscal

duties and taxes already paid to the foreign authorities, because they deem it so convenient for the national interests;

Therefore, I do hereby proclaim the following:

Article I.—When the Mexican authorities occupy the port of Veracruz, they will not levy from the inhabitants of that port the payment of duties or any other kind of taxes of a Federal nature which may have been previously paid to the foreign authorities which temporarily occupied that place.

Article II.—In order to enjoy the exemption established in the previous Chapter of this Proclamation, it will be enough for the taxpayers to present at the respective collecting offices the documents showing that the payment was made to the authorities established during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Let this be immediately published and obeyed.

General Headquarters at Cordoba, Veracruz, November 8th, 1914.

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union.

To the Secretary of the Treasury, Mexico, D. F.:

I, Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican United States, using the extraordinary faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The clerks, Mexicans or foreigners, who have lent their services to the authorities established at the port of Veracruz during its occupation by the United States forces, have addressed themselves to this First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army, through the Governor and Military Commander of that State, spontaneously expressing that they recognize the National Government as the only authority called upon to resolve the questions of a domestic character, as for instance the punishment or pardon of those who, like the signers of the petition, have lent their services to the mentioned authorities;

Whereas.—They do expressly declare that they submit to the decisions of the National Government, wishing not to be an obstacle to the patriotic purpose of achieving the prompt evacuation of Veracruz; and

Whereas.—The spontaneous and patriotic attitude assumed by said citizens makes them deservers of pardon for the penalty they may have incurred on, let the following "Proclamation" be issued:

General amnesty is hereby granted to all persons who lent their services as clerks in the several branches of the public administration temporarily acting during the occupation of Veracruz by forces of the United States of America.

Let this be made known to the Federal and State authorities concerned, for its immediate publication and compliance.

Constitution and Reforms. General Headquarters, Cordoba, November 9th, 1914.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

To Eliseo Arredondo, Acting Secretary of State, Mexico, D. F.

General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the State, considering for his part the same reasons expressed by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, on this date has issued the following proclamation:

I, Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the Free and Sovereign State of Veracruz, using the faculties I am invested with:

Whereas.—The Government under my charge has the obligation to extend its protection to those who have paid their fiscal duties in the port of Veracruz to the American authorities, and that protection must consist in not collecting again the taxes paid, as a measure of full equity; and

Whereas.—A great majority of the inhabitants of said port recognize that the Mexican Government is the only authority which must protect them, and they willingly submit to its benignity, acting in the spirit of true patriotism;

Therefore.—I have deemed it convenient to issue the following proclamation:

Article 1.—Upon the evacuation of the port of Veracruz by the American forces and its occupation by the Mexican authorities, the inhabitants shall not be demanded the payment of any fiscal taxes either of the State or of the Municipium, whatever their nature may be, if such taxes have been previously paid to the foreign authorities during the occupation of that place;

Article 2.—In order to enjoy the exemption alluded to in the previous article, it will be enough for the taxpayers to exhibit in the respective collecting offices the documents showing that the payment was made to the foreign authorities during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces.

Let this be published and made known for its compliance with.

Signed at the City of Cordoba, on the 10th of November, 1914.

General Candido Aguilar, Governor of the State, José Domínguez, Assistant Secretary of the State Government.

Since the Mexican Government has issued the proclamations I have the honor to insert above, the causes the State Department of the American Government invoked to continue occupying the port of Veracruz have disappeared. Consequently, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, expects that the Department of State at Washington, as promised in its note of November 2d, will not delay any longer

the evacuation of Veracruz, and will immediately proceed to effect it.
I assure you of my most distinguished consideration.
Constitution and Reforms.

(Signed) I. FABELA,

- Acting Secretary.

(Doc. No. 37.)

TELEGRAM.

From the Foreign Office, November 14th, 1914.

Received at Cordoba.

Mr. Isidro Fabela:

URGENT.

I am highly pleased to transmit a note just received by the Legation from Brazil.

“Legation of the United States of Brazil, Mexico, November 14th, 1914.

No. 389.—Mr. Acting Secretary: I have the honor to insert the following message I just received from the State Secretary of the United States of American: “General Carranza as well as the Aguascalientes Convention having given full guaranties and securities this Government asked for, we are ready to take back troops from Veracruz next Monday, the 23d of November. All those persons for whose personal security this Government had made itself responsible, have left that city; the priests, the nuns who had taken refuge in the same place and for whose security there were fears, all are on the way for this country.” I request of you to communicate the above to General Venustiano Carranza, accepting my congratulations and the assurances of my distinguished consideration.
(Signed) J. M. Cardoso de Oliveira.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs”

I am giving out this news to the press.

Accept my hearty congratulations.

JOSE BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

(Doc. No. 38.)

No. 113.—Mexico, Foreign Office, November 14th, 1914.

TELEGRAM.

VERY URGENT.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Cordoba, Veracruz:

I just received from the Brazilian Minister a telegram from the Department of State at Washington announcing the resolution of the American Government to evacuate Veracruz next 23d, considering as satisfactory the proclamations of the First Chief regarding persons and interests for whose security that Government was interested. As soon as Legation is through translating such telegram, I shall have the pleasure to transmit it. Brazilian Minister congratulates Señor Carranza and yourself. Hearty greetings with warm congratulations.

JOSE BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

(Doc. No. 39.)

Cordoba, November 15th, 1914.

To His Excellency J. M. Cardoso de Oliveira, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Brazil, Chargé d'Affairs of the United States in Mexico:

Brazilian Legation, Mexico, D. F.

Mr. Minister:

It was a source of great satisfaction and honor for me to receive your Excellency's kind note dated yesterday, wherein you were pleased to inform the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Union, that the State Department of the United States of America expresses to this Government that on the 23d inst. the port of Veracruz will be evacuated by the American forces.

Advising Your Excellency that Mr. Venustiano Carranza, Chief Executive, has taken notice of such resolution, it pleases me very highly to repeat here what this Department has communicated to you in previous notes, viz.: that General Candido Aguilar, Governor and Military Commander of the State of Veracruz, is empowered by

the Executive to receive the port, and the necessary instructions are now being given to that effect.

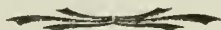
The First Chief, Mr. Carranza, instructs me to offer Your Excellency his heartfelt thanks for the friendly part you have taken in this matter of such great import for the Government and the people of Mexico.

For my part I also congratulate Your Excellency for your able help towards solving this international question, thanking Your Excellency for your congratulations, which I duly appreciate.

I beg to renew the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) I. FABELA,

Acting Secretary.



VII
COLUMBUS CASE

(Doc. No. 1).

TELEGRAM.

El Paso, Texas, March 9th, 1916.

Señor V. Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army,
Guadalajara, Jalisco:

Villa in person, commanding four hundred men, assaulted to-day at half-past four the American town of Columbus just across Palomas. Burnt and looted part of the town, killing three American soldiers, wounding seven and five civilians. General Pershing, Military Commander of El Paso, says American forces drove back the outlaws, who left several dead on the field, and the band is being pursued. General Pershing asked me whether my Government would accept co-operation of American forces to capture Villa, by allowing them to cross the boundary if necessary.

I answered him I am no channel to make such application, but would communicate with you on the subject, as I have the honor to do now.

ANDRES G. GARCIA.

(Doc. No. 2).

El Paso, Texas, March 9th, 1916.

Señor V. Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army,
Guadalajara, Jalisco:

I confirm my telegram of yesterday regarding invasion of Villa to American territory. Latest news coming from Columbus says 13th

Regiment which garrisoned that town crossed the line in pursuit of outlaws. Reports received up to the present state number of American dead, military and civilians, amounts to nineteen. Number of wounded is unknown. Shall continue informing you.

ANDRES GARCIA.

(Doc. No. 3).

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, March 9th, 1916.

Silliman—Care of American Consul, Guadalajara:

Official reports have just been received from El Paso to the effect that Villa with several hundred men, early in the morning, attacked the American garrison at Columbus, New Mexico, burning the main buildings of the city and killing a number of American soldiers and civilians.

Other official reports from El Paso say that it was well known days ago, but that the forces of the "De Facto" Government were insufficient to pursue them. There is also the report that the Mexican Consul at El Paso asked General Carranza on that very day to send additional forces to the State of Chihuahua. Make this known to General Carranza for his own information, and tell him that this Government with-holds its judgment until ulterior facts are known; but advise him that this seems to be the most serious situation this Government has seen itself in during the whole period of the Mexican disturbances, and that it is expected that he will do all he possibly can to pursue, capture and exterminate that outlawry element now marching on toward the west of Columbus.

LANSING.

(Doc. No. 4).

Washington, D. C., to Mexico, March 9th, 1916.

Mr. Jesus Acuña, Queretaro, Qro.:

For the knowledge of the Chief Executive I inform you that in conference I held today with Mr. Lansing he confirmed to me the

Villa raid to Columbus, American town, where three soldiers and four or five civilians were killed and a certain number wounded, burning and sacking some public buildings. He added American forces crossed the boundary line in their pursuit on account of the state of excitement of the town people and because there were no Constitutionalist forces to fight Villa and followers; he requested of me to inform you on these facts to avoid them to be construed as invasion, being nothing else but an act of mere self-defense and solely for the pursuit of that band of outlaws commanded by Villa in person, who must be regarded as a common enemy since by his actions he intends to provoke a conflict between the two countries. He thinks that the Columbus raid was intended to cause that pursuit by the American forces, thinking that our Government would protest and the conflict then would ensue; he added that such pursuit would only last until our forces approached and then their forces will retire, remaining close by to co-operate with our Government to the extermination of Villa and this cause of so constant difficulties. Please give me instructions in regard to attitude I must assume.

Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 5).

Mr. John R. Silliman, Confidential Agent of the United States Government, Irapuato, March 10th, 1916:

In due response to your kind note dated yesterday and transmitted today by Mr. John W. Belt, I have the honor to advise you that your said note was communicated to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, who orders me to tell you, that you may transmit it to the State Department of the United States Government, that he learned, with just regret, the lamentable incident that occurred at the town of Columbus, New Mexico, on account of the raid made yesterday by the outlaws commanded by Francisco Villa; that although there has been a considerable number of forces in the State of Chihuahua in order to re-establish order and give full guaranties to nationals and foreigners, since Francisco Villa was known to be around the Sierra of that State, at the request of that State's Government and the Constitutionalist Consul at El Paso, Texas, the First Chieftainship very timely ordered the immediate sending of one thousand five hundred men under the command of General Luis Gutierrez, instructed to pursue very actively the outlaws that just raided the United States territory, who, most undoubtedly, proceeded that way com-

pelled by the tenacious pursuit of our said forces. The lamentable case now occurred has a certain similarity with the irruptions recorded in the States of Sonora and Chihuahua by the Indians of the United States reservations. That of Sonora happened sometime about 1880, when Geronimo, an Indian who died not long ago in Fort Mount of Alabama, heading a numerous horde, invaded the Northern part of Sonora, committed many murders and outrages on lives and properties of Mexican families, until finally the band was annihilated and its chief was captured. The Chihuahua irruption was led by the Indian Victoria, who had eight hundred Indians with him, in the years between 1884 and 1886. That time the band of outlaws committing also many crimes, swept down south as far as Tejolocho or Tres Castillos, very near the capital of the State of Chihuahua, and in the first formal encounter they had with the Mexican forces, having lost their chief, they disbanded. In these two cases, by virtue of an agreement reached between the United States Government and the Mexican Government, it was established that armed forces of both countries could freely pass from one territory into the other in pursuit of those outlaws, in order to punish them.

Having in mind such historical precedents and the good results of said agreement to both countries, the Government presided over by the First Chief, wishing to exterminate in the shortest possible time the band led by Francisco Villa—who recently was proclaimed outside the law—and to capture him in order to punish him as he deserves, through your honorable offices, Mr. Confidential Agent, he addresses himself to the United States Government requesting the necessary permit to send Mexican forces to American territory in pursuit of those outlaws, granting the due reciprocity to the United States forces to come into Mexican territory if the Columbus raid should most unfortunately repeat itself at any other point of the frontier line. The Mexican Government would highly appreciate of the United States Government a prompt and favorable solution.

Please accept, Mr. Confidential Agent, the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration.

ACUÑA.

(Doc. No. 6).

TRANSLATION.

From the "Records of the Navy and the Army," January 27th, 1917, "THE COLUMBUS RAID."

General H. L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the Army, has sent the following memorandum to the Military Committee of the Congress,

in response to a petition of Congressman Kahn in audience before that committee, relating to the rumor that the War Department had had news of the Villa raid to Columbus before it took place:

MEMORANDUM.

The following dispatches were remitted to the War Department by the State Department. Steps taken by the former may be noticed in each case:

El Paso, Texas, March 3d, 1916—2 p. m.

Received at—p. m.

Secretary of State, Washington:

Villa left Pacheco, near Madera, Wednesday, with 300 men, towards Columbus, New Mexico. Today he is reported west of Casas Grandes. There are reasons to believe he intends going into the United States and expects to go to Washington. Please consider this probability and the necessity to give us instructions along the border—Cobb.

Note: The original was marked as having been received at the office of the Chief of Staff on March 4th, 1916. Records show the document was received in the office of the General Assistant, March 4th, repeated by wire using special code, to the Commanding General, Southern Department, at 5:30 p.m. that same day.

El Paso, Texas, March 6th, 1916.—1. p. m. (Received 5:30).

Secretary of State, Washington:

My telegram of March 3d sent at 2 p. m. seems to be confirmed.

Commanding General Gavira, in Juarez, informed the press this morning Villa marched on the frontier and he had requested the American military authorities to keep an eye on him. My reports are that he must arrive tonight or tomorrow. Have given instructions to the Custom Collector at Columbus to wire instantly any events.—Cobb.

Note: This message is marked as received in the office of the Chief of Staff March 7th, 1916, and received at the Division of the Military College March 18th, 1916. Records show the document received in the office of the General Assistant March 21st, 1916, and filed March 23d, 1916.

El Paso, Texas, March 7th, 1916.—1 p. m.

Received at 5:30 p. m.

Secretary of State, Washington:

Custom Collector at Columbus telephones Villa with approximately 40 men is located near river southwest of Columbus, 15 miles west and about 50 miles south, where they stopped to steal cattle from clerks of Las Palomas Land and Cattle Company, who, reports say, fled in all haste for the United States.—Cobb.

Note: This message is marked as received in the office of the Chief of Staff March 8th, 1916; received in the Division of the Military College March 18th, 1916.—Records prove the document was received at the office of the General Assitant March 21st, 1916, and filed March 23d, 1916.

El Paso, Texas.—No. date.

Received, March 8th, 1916.—10:30 p. m.

Secretary of State, Washington:

It is reported General Villa is located in Rancho Nogales, about 25 miles from border and 65 from Hachita, New Mexico. Reports in hand are that he moves west toward Sonora.—Carothers.

Note: The original document is marked as received in the office of the Chief of Staff March 10th, 1916.—Records show it was received in the Office of the General Assistant March 21st, 1916, and filed on the 22d.

General Funston reports as follows:

1.—Information contained in Cobb's telegram dated March 3d, 1916, at 2 p. m., was transmitted to Commanding officer of the border district including Columbus.

2.—A message was received from General Pershing, dated at El Paso, Texas, March 6th, 1916, transmitting a communication from General Gavira where he announces that Villa was located a mile south of Palomas on the eve of March 5th. These reports were wired to Columbus.

3.—A telegraphic report from Colonel Bodd, commanding the border district including Columbus, dated March 8th, 1916, saying

a group of workmen of the Gibson Ranch informed that a trustworthy Mexican carried the news that about two or three hundred Villa followers arrived on the eve of March 6th, near Boca Grande, 75 miles south of the Gibson Ranch, stealing horses and capturing American foreman. Colonel Bodd informed in same message that these data were confirmed on the eve of March 7th.

4.—A wire was received from General Pershing, March 7th, 1916, indicating Villa and 500 men were at a point southeast of Palomas, and had raided the ranches of the Palomas Land and Cattle Company; that Mexican Consul said his reports were to the effect that Villa was located near Boca Grande, and that one of the stockholders of that company reported having received news that Villa was about fifty miles southwest of Palomas, and would move southward.

The following is taken from the report of an investigation made by Colonel Lucien C. Berry, of the 4th Regiment of Artillery, supervisor of the Punitive Expedition of the United States Army: Colonel H. J. Slocum, of the 13th Cavalry Regiment expressed the following:

"Some days ago I had rumors that Villa was approaching the border just on the side where I could not discover him except resorting to the means I did—a Mexican Indian whom I persuaded under certain pressure and promising him some money (a clerk of the Las Palomas Land and Cattle Company helped me get the Indian's services), to go to Boca Grande, of the Gibson Ranch, and locate Villa. That man was sent by me to the Commander of the Gibson Ranch Line, Major Lindsley, of the 13th Cavalry Regiment. In the mean while I had heard frequent rumors about Villa's location. Authentic information was received from commanding officer of the 2d Cavalry Brigade at Douglas, Arizona, saying on the previous day Villa had been personally seen at Nogales Ranch, which is, as I believe, some 150 or 175 miles off Columbus, New Mexico, in Mexican territory.

There were also other reports of Villa being at different places. The atmosphere was full of wild rumors and it was impossible to know anything certain. I hoped to get good reports from the Mexican Indian and from some neighbor of the Palomas Cattle Company property, and went to the Gibson Ranch (this was between the 6th and the 7th of March) and awaited for the said Indian's return. He came back to Columbus about 8 o'clock that eve; he was led by Major Lindsley, and he told me that he had gone as far as Boca Grande and would have seen Villa if he gone further east after him. The main Villa forces had moved toward the south-east on the road to Guzman, while one hundred of his men had moved toward Palomas.

As soon as I obtained these last data given to me by the man of Las Palomas, I went off, with the intention of locating Villa, to the pass of the frontier, where I had often been trying to obtain

the help of the Carranza people, and to communicate what the spy had said. I found everybody on the Mexican side filled with terrors and unwilling to go far south to learn of Villa's whereabouts. They told me that one of their men on the previous day (or the previous eve, I have forgotten this detail) had gone to the mountains and had heard some voices; this frightened him and he hurried back to the boundary.

(Doc. No. 7).

Hermosillo, March 10th, 1916.

Received at Irapuato.—First Chief Carranza:

VERY URGENT.

I have received from Nogales following message: "Colonel of American forces informs five thousand men entered Mexico to pursue Villa in Mexican territory." Official news says intervention is not intended. Respectfully,

General, FRANCISCO R. SERRANO.

(Doc. No. 8).

Irapuato, March 10th, 1916.

General Luis Gutierrez, Chihuahua:

Your message received. Order your forces to move swiftly to fight Villa, preventing his escape to southern Sierra. Confidential Agent of United States Government informs me Villa carries with him an American and three Mexican prisoners, clerks of Las Palomas Land and Cattle Company, whom you will try to rescue with all efficacy.

In due time I shall tell you the attitude you must assume if the report that American forces are going to enter Mexico is confirmed.

Greet you with all regard.

CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 9).

TELEGRAM.

Empalme, Sonora, March 10th, 1916.

First Chief, Irapuato, Guanajuato:

Know border situation. Am ready to march thereto with thirteen thousand men. Have suspended on that account attack on Yaqui Indians. Await your orders. Respectfully.

General, Chief of the Zone, M. M. DIEGUEZ.

(Doc. No. 10).

TELEGRAM.

Celaya, Guanajuato, March 11th, 1916.

General Manuel M. Dieguez, Empalme, Sonora:

Your message of yesterday received. Am trying to prevent breaking with United States. For anything may happen, place your troops in convenient points to avoid invasion of American soldiers to our territory. You better have everything ready to destroy line from Nogales south and order the same steps to be taken in Naco and Agua Prieta, if war is declared. Order construction of hand dynamite grenades that will help us greatly. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 11).

TELEGRAM.

Celaya, Guanajuato, March 11th, 1916.

General Plutarco Elías Calles, Agua Prieta, Sonora:

VERY URGENT.

Your message of to-day received. In regard to its contents I have just wired General Dieguez the following:

"Am trying to prevent breaking with United States. For anything

may happen, place your troops in convenient points to avoid invasion of our territory by American soldiers. Have everything ready to destroy railroad line from Nogales south and order same steps to be taken in Naco and Agua Prieta, if war be declared."

Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 12).

TELEGRAM.

Irapuato, March 11th, 1916.

General Agustín Millán, Jalapa, Veracruz:

Our relations with United States are at the verge of breaking on account of Columbus incident. I suppose you are all ready.

March immediately upon Veracruz and take every kind of precautions so that in case American marines try to land you fight them. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 13).

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Queretaro, Mexico, March 11th, 1916.

Honorable Jesus Acuña, Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office, Queretaro, Mexico:

I have the honor to transmit to you, by orders of the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States of America, the following note which was transmitted to me by wire from Washington today at 3 p. m. The note reads as follows:

"You are hereby instructed to answer in the following manner the note of Secretary Acuña dated March 10th: "The United States Government has received the courteous note of Señor Acuña and has very gladly read of his action towards establishing for the American and the Mexican authorities reciprocal privileges in the pursuit and capture of outlaws infesting their respective territories and operating along the boundary line, who are a menace for the lives and interests of the people residing in those regions. The

United States Government, in view of the abnormal conditions prevailing for such a long time along the international border, wishing very eagerly to co-operate with the "De Facto" Government of Mexico to stop that state of disorder, of which the recent attack on Columbus, New Mexico, is a most deplorable instance, and in order to secure peace and order in the neighborhood of the frontier between the two nations, is willing to grant permission to the military forces of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico to cross the border in pursuit of the bands of outlaws who have entered Mexico from the United States committing outrages on Mexican soil and then returning into the United States, with the understanding that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico grants a reciprocal privilege to the military forces of the United States, to cross the boundary line into Mexico, after the bands of armed outlaws coming from Mexico into the United States to commit outrages on American soil and returning then to Mexico.

The United States Government understands that in view of its consent to this reciprocal agreement proposed by the "De Facto" Government, this arrangement is now complete and in force, and that the reciprocal privilege above mentioned may be used by each government without future exchange of ideas. It is a matter of sincere acknowledgment for the United States Government that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico should have demonstrated such a friendly and cordial spirit of co-operation in the efforts of the American authorities to capture and punish the bands of outlaws seeking refuge behind the boundary line, in the erroneous belief that the constituted authorities would avoid any pursuit across the frontier by the forces of the Government whose citizens may have suffered by the crimes of the fugitive outlaws.

Moved by the same spirit of cordial friendship, the United States Government will avail itself of the privilege accorded by the "De Facto" Government of Mexico, with the hope and firmest belief that as a result of their mutual efforts disorder shall soon be overcome, and peace and order will be maintained in the territories of the United States and Mexico adjacent to the international boundary line. (Signed) Lansing."

It is my wish, Mr. Secretary, to transmit the message inserted above, in accordance with the instructions given to me by the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States.

I am, with great respect, John W. Belt, Secretary of the Special Agent of the State Department.

(Doc. No. 14).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, March 16th, 1916.

Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

First Chief agrees with last note of American Government; however, before determining terms and conditions of agreement upon crossing of boundary line by troops it will be necessary to consult precedents found in Mexico city and already asked for; meanwhile, by orders of the same First Chief, try to exchange ideas with Secretary Mr. Lansing upon the subject, reporting to this office on results. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 15).

Queretaro, March 17th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador, Washington, D. C.:

The First Chieftainship has trustworthy reports to the effect that, without the knowledge or advice of the nearest political or military authorities, and without any previous note from the United States Administration to this Government, a so-called punitive expedition has passed through Palomas into Mexican territory for the purpose of pursuing Villa and his men. By superior orders please put these facts in the knowledge of the American Government, expressing to the Secretary of State that this Government, even though still willing to stand by the proposal made in its note of the 10th inst., it considers that the terms and conditions of the agreement have not yet been formally determined in a treaty between the two countries for the allowance of troops of either country going into the other, for which reason the sending of troops on an expedition of any kind cannot be considered as authorized.

The consent expressed by this Government in regard to the crossing of the frontier by armed forces is being wrongly taken to purport that the coming of a military expedition to seek Villa is allowed, and even it is intended to have American troops transported on the line of the Mexico Northwest Railroad going from Ciudad Juarez to the south of the State of Chihuahua, although the above mentioned note indicates with full clearness that this Government is willing to act within the terms of the most strict

reciprocity if unfortunately any raid as that of Columbus or of any other kind should happen at any place along the border. In no manner should that note be interpreted as meaning that expeditions intended to enter the national territory shall ever be tolerated or allowed. Please express with all exactness to the Secretary of State that the Mexican Government cannot authorize at present the coming into our territory of American troops if the concrete terms of the corresponding agreement are not previously established, and you may assure also the said Secretary that this Government, with all the expediency required by the case, is studying the proposals of the agreement that will define once for all the matter in question, and will submit them to the consideration of that Government as soon as possible. Please report results of your mediations. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 16).

Queretaro, March 18th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

The First Chief instructs me to transmit to you the following draft of an agreement which in due form and in writing you shall submit to the consideration of the Secretary of State, trying to obtain a prompt solution and communicate it to this office with all the haste demanded by this matter.

“Project of an Agreement between the Governments of Mexico and the United States of America, in regard to the passing of troops across the boundary line, for the pursuit of bandits.

Article 1.—It is hereby agreed by the Governments of Mexico and the United States of America that the Federal regular troops of one and the other country, as well as any other forces whatsoever, either belonging to the particular militia of the States of both Republics or those organized with the due authorization of said Governments, may be reciprocally sent across the boundary line through any point located between the Colorado River and Piedras Negras whenever said troops are in close pursuit of a band of individuals considered as outlaws, or of bandits who may have interned themselves in any of either countries, committing outrages in it and then re-entering the country of their procedent to elude punishment.

Article 2.—This Agreement is subject to all the terms and conditions to be stipulated in the following articles:

Article 3.—The reciprocal privilege alluded to in the Article 1 refers only to crossing of troops through unpeopled or desert

regions of said extension of the boundary line. For the effects of this Article are to be considered as unpeopled or desert regions all those places at least ten kilometers distant from any military cantonment or town existing on the line dividing both countries.

Article 4.—Only in exceptional cases the pursuit can be effected through territory nearer to such cantonments or towns referred to in the former article, and for the effects of this article it will be held as exception the case when a military cantonment or a town is located in a mountainous place hard to get in communication with either ordinarily or by temporary accidental circumstances.

Article 5.—The officer commanding the forces which cross the boundary line in pursuit of outlaws must give advice of it, as soon as he goes across or even before if it is possible, to the nearest military chief or civil authority of the country he is going into. The commander of the pursuing forces must also furnish the corresponding report to his Government through the proper channel, so that both governments are well informed on the case.

Article 6.—A zone sixty kilometers wide on each side of the boundary line in the extension referred to in Article 1, is established, within which the pursuit can only be made. Consequently the pursuing forces will never go beyond such zone nor will establish any barracks within it, nor will remain in it for any longer than the time absolutely needed to pursue the band, and they must return to their own country as soon as the time expressed in Article 8 of this Agreement elapses or as soon as they meet the forces of the country where the pursued band took refuge.

Article 7.—As soon as the pursuing forces have got in touch with the troops of the other country, it is up to the commanding officers of both powers to fight together the band in question provided this action is performed within the above mentioned zone, but the invading forces will withdraw to their own country right after the pursuit is through in the opinion of both commanders. Whenever the case set forth in this Article occurs, it is the obligation of both chiefs of the combined forces to give the necessary advice to their respective governments at the very moment they first meet and at the end of their combined harassment.

Article 8.—The number of men crossing the boundary line will never exceed one thousand, and they can in no case whatsoever remain in the zone any longer than five days.

Article 9.—The sending will not be allowed of any other forces but cavalry, which may carry with their equipment machine guns and "Rexer" rifles besides their customary arms.

Article 10.—The commanders of the forces of both countries will agree between themselves in each case as to the distinctions or signals to be used by their troops to avoid confusion during the action.

Article 11.—Under no circumstances can the forces of either country occupy towns or cantonments located in the country they enter by virtue of the terms of this agreement.

Article 12.—If during the pursuit or in any other action, were there confusion by which the forces of either country be damaged, only the commander to blame for the confusion will be held responsible for it, his actions bringing no responsibility whatsoever on the contracting parties and being by no means a cause for breaking their relations. Both Governments pledge themselves to punish very severely any acts as those alluded to in this article, and to that purpose an investigation will be made in each case by the Government of the country the responsible commander belongs to.

Article 13.—It is absolutely prohibited to the forces crossing the frontier to dispose of the private property belonging to residents of the places they go through, nor occupy it without the consent of its owners and the proper indemnity for its value. Any abuses committed by the forces of either country entering the territory of the other, will be punished according to the gravity of the offense, and in full accordance with the laws, by the government they depend from, as if such offenses had been committed within its own territory, said government being under the obligation of calling back the transgressor or transgressors and to pay the corresponding indemnity to the people damaged by its forces.

Article 14.—In the cases of transgressions committed by the inhabitants of a country against the forces or individuals of the other within the limits of the former, the government of such country will only be held responsible by the other if there be a clear denial of justice to punish the transgressors.

Article 15.—This Agreement will remain in force during one year counted from the date in which it is signed by the representatives of both countries; but it may end at the will of either of the contracting powers by means of an announcement made through the proper channels two months before it must end. However, at the close of the time fixed it will be considered as tacitly renewed for one more year only, if none of the contracting parties express its desire to resign it.

Hearty greetings.

Secretary of Foreign Office,

AGUILAR,

(Doc. No. 17).

Washington, March 18th, 1916.

General C. Aguilar, Secretary of the Foreign Office, Queretaro, Queretaro:

As soon as your code message was handed to me yesterday, I called on Mr. Polk, Counsellor of the State Department and acting Secretary during Mr. Lansing's absence, who is enjoying an eight-days' vacation, and informed Mr. Polk on the attitude of our Government and considerations included in the above-mentioned message. Mr. Polk received me cordially, expressing regret for not having received these observations before American forces crossed the line, which observations would have been attended with all interest. He says sending of expedition was meant in all good faith with the understanding that it would not be necessary to enter into more details of the agreement they considered as concluded, since Mr. Wilson answered Mr. Carranza's note and three days elapsed without any observations or suggestions being received; that, furthermore, Funston informs him that he has acted in full accordance with our military authorities; that they will take up and consider with pleasure any suggestion made by our Government towards establishing the terms and conditions of the agreement to which both forces must be subjected; that he will take up this matter at once with Mr. Wilson, being positive that the President will give it now as much attention as he has in the past, and besides the many recommendations made to Funston, new instructions would be given him to act always in everything in full accordance with our local authorities and military commanders, respecting both, and to conduct himself with the greatest tact and prudence while minor details of the Agreement are being made. He repeated what Mr. Lansing had said, that Mr. Wilson as well as the whole administration act in all good faith and moved by the most sincere wishes of co-operating with our forces to annihilate those who gave origin to this incident, so as to make remote the possibility of any new conflicts between the two countries. Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 18).

Washington, March 18th, 1916.

Mr. Secretary:

Confirming the conversation I had today with Mr. Polk, Acting Secretary of State, in regard to a military expedition sent into

Mexican territory, I have instructions from my government to make known to Your Excellency that the Chief Executive of Mexico has just received trustworthy reports of the fact that without previous advice to the civil or military authorities of the nearest place and without any further understanding between your government and the Mexican Government, a so-called punitive expedition intended to pursue Villa and his band has penetrated into Mexican territory through Palomas. Obeying the above-mentioned instructions, I have the honor to inform you on these facts, indicating that my Government, even though still upholding the proposals contained in its note of the 10th inst., is of the opinion that terms and conditions of an Agreement that should formally be concluded between both nations have not yet been fixed for the sending of troops in a way that either government should feel itself duly authorized to do it. The consent expressed by my Government to agree to a reciprocal concession of that sort, seems to have been erroneously mistaken for a definitive sanction to any such agreement by which American troops could be sent across the line into Mexico in pursuit of Villa. The United States authorities have gone so far as trying to mobilize their soldiers on the Northern Railroad of Mexico between Juarez City and the southern part of the State of Chihuahua; but the note alluded to clearly indicates that the Government is willing to accept a reciprocal treaty, wishing to prevent the repetition of the Columbus raid at any point on the boundary line, and this is all there is in the note mistaken for an authorization to invade Mexico, which would never be permitted by this Government. I am also instructed to make clear to Your Excellency that the Mexican Government cannot authorize the right of American forces to enter our territory before the terms of the mutual agreement have been fixed in a definite and concise form, and I have been ordered to assure you, Mr. Secretary, that my Government is studying with the expedition the case demands, the proposals of the Agreement to be submitted as soon as possible, so as to determine once for all and for ever the matter in question.

With the assurances of my high consideration, I have the honor to be, Mr. Secretary,

Your obedient Servant, **ARREDONDO.**

(Doc. No. 19).

Department of State.—Washington, D. C., March 19th, 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL.—My dear Mr. Arredondo:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 18th, 1916, including the transcription of the contents of a message from the

Foreign Secretary of Mexico, which you had the kindness to read to me yesterday afternoon.

As I indicated to you, it is a matter of sincere regret that there should have been a misunderstanding in regard to General Carranza's attitude about the sending of troops across the frontier in pursuit of Villa. This Department understood, as a result of the exchange of notes between this Government and the "De Facto" Government of Mexico, that the latter had fully understood and admitted the agreement proposed by the Foreign Minister Señor Acuña in his note dated March 13th, presented through the Special Agent Mr. Silliman, by which agreement the troops of each nation could, under certain conditions, pursue bandits within the territory of the other. With this understanding the United States troops were ordered to follow our common enemy, because it was considered that time should not be lost if the pursuit was to be effectual. In the meantime our military commanders have been given express instructions to scrupulously respect the sovereignty of the Mexican Government, and we hope that there can be no possibility of friction. Furthermore: this Government will receive with full satisfaction whatever suggestions your Government may wish to make in regard to the terms for the definitive agreement to cover the operations of the troops either in our country or in yours under such particular conditions.

I am, my dear Mr. Arredondo, very sincerely yours.

FRANK L. POLK,

Acting Secretary of State.

(Doc. No. 20).

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL AGENT, STATE DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Queretaro, Mexico, March 19th, 1916.

Honorable Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Queretaro:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received this morning a telegram from the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States of America, which reads as follows:

"Washington, March 18th, at 6 p. m.

"James Lind Rodgers,

"Special Representative of the American Government:

"Ask General Carranza to dictate necessary orders to corresponding authorities at Chihuahua in order that the Northeast Railroad from Ciudad Juarez to Casas Grandes or its neighborhood allow this Government transportation of supplies for American troops actually pursuing Villa and his band.

"Polk, Acting Secretary of State."

In the most respectful manner I call your attention to the fact that a prompt acquiescence on the part of the Mexican Government would be a reciprocal courtesy, since the American Government has given similar facilities to the Mexican Government for its military operations along the northern frontier.

This being a case of great opportunity for the success of the operations in the campaign against Villa, I have the honor to request of you a prompt answer, that I may transmit it today to my Government. I hope the Mexican Government will be pleased to issue by telegraph today the necessary orders.

I am, my dear Mr. Secretary, with all regard, your respectful servant,

JAMES LINN RODGERS,

Special Agent of the State Department of the United States of America.

(Doc. No. 21).

Queretaro, March 19th, 1916.

Having reported to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army your note of today where you transmit the message received from the State Department of the United States, by orders of that high official I request of you to please transmit to the same Department the following answer:

"The note alluded to has been a source of great surprise for the Mexican Government because up to the present it had not received any official advice from the United State Government nor knew that the Ameircan forces were at Casas Grandes or in that vicinity, adding to our surprise the fact that we are just trying to conclude the agreement to be observed in regard to passing of troops from one country into the other, discussing terms and conditions, which is being done through the proper channels and as a result of the Columbus incident, in full accordance with the spirit of the note dated the 10th inst. and addressed by the Government presided over by the First Chief to the United States Government.

The Mexican Government can but find it rather strange that said troops should have crossed the boundary line entering our territory without any previous agreement, official note or advice

of any kind, and that they have gone as far as Casas Grandes, a place farther from the border than any of the points that, by virtue of former treaties, have been fixed as the remotest limit in cases of pursuit.

Wishing to keep unaltered the friendly relations that have always existed between the United States and Mexico, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army considers it necessary, that he may act with full knowledge of the case in such a transcendental matter, that the State Department of the United States of America be pleased to inform the Government over which he presides, regarding the circumstances under which the sending of American troops into Mexican territory was effected; their number and what technical division they belong to; the name of their commander, their exact location and the reasons for their coming across the border.

Hoping that you will please transmit this note to the State Department of the United States of America, making it realize the necessity of giving a prompt answer, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew you the assurances of my high and respectful consideration.

Foreign Secretary, C. AGUILAR.

To The Honorable Special Representative of the Department of State of the United States.—Present.

(Doc. No. 22).

Washington, March 20th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Office, Queretaro:

I have just met Mr. Polk, at his request, to discuss project of agreement for reciprocal passing of troops which I submitted to him yesterday as advised. He told me he had presented it to Mr. Wilson and that they were only studying whether the President could conclude said agreement without being specially empowered by the Senate, his personal opinion being that the President had that faculty; that we would anyway reach an agreement substantially based on said project. He repeated his regret for the misinterpretation of first notes exchanged, which made them believe that it being agreed in principle, they were authorized to send American troops. I urged on him the necessity of taking out such troops, and he told me he would recommend it immediately to the War Department, and such step would only be postponed by the imminence of a next contact with Villa. He finally stated that the American Government is perfectly willing to reach an Agreement in full accordance with the indication of Señor Carranza and to co-operate with him in the best terms of

friendship for the pursuit of Villa. He let me understand that if we sent enough troops to pursue Villa, American forces would immediately evacuate Mexican territory.—Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 23).

Washington, March 20th, 1916.—General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro:

Mr. Polk's answer to which I refer in first part of my message of yesterday reads as follows: "I beg to acknowledge receipt of your kind note of March 18th, 1916, with which you are pleased to include substantial translation of a message from the Foreign Office of Mexico. As I expressed to you I regret very sincerely that we misunderstood Señor Carranza's attitude in regard to the sending of United States forces across the boundary line for the pursuit of Villa. This Department had the belief, as a result of the messages exchanged between this and the "De Facto" Government of Mexico, that this Government had fully understood and consented to the agreement proposed by the Secretary of the Foreign Office, Mr. Acuña, in his note of March 10th, as expressed by this Government in note of March 13th, which was presented by its Special Agent Mr. Silliman, and by such agreement the troops of both Governments could, under certain conditions, pursue the bandits in the territory of each other. Under this impression orders were given to the troops of the United States Government to pursue our common enemy because it was considered that time should not be wasted if the prosecution was to be effectual. In the meantime our military commanders have been given express instructions to scrupulously respect the sovereignty of the Mexican Government and we hope that there can be no possibility of friction. Furthermore: this Government is ready to consider any suggestion you may wish to make in regard to the terms for the definitive agreement to cover the operations of the troops either in our country or in yours.

I am, my dear Mr. Arredondo, Very sincerely yours, Frank L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State,"—Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 24).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, March 21st, 1916.

Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

The First Chief wishes you to try to hold another conference with the Secretary of State, and in an unofficial way to please indicate to him the following reasons why the American Government can order right away the withdrawal of their troops from our territory. In first place, because according to news received, in their pursuit of Villa the troops have already gone beyond the line fixed in previous treaties as limit in cases of pursuit; then, because this Government knows well that our troops, in sufficient numbers, are already in contact with Villa and his band; probably in these very moments a battle is being fought, which eliminates the necessity of keeping in Mexican territory the expedition that Government sent to pursue the outlaws. On the other hand there is the circumstance that Villa, who is very cunning, might distract the American forces with part of his band and escape with just a few men to the other side of the Sierra, with the premeditated purpose of defying the American troops, which in the opinion of this Government should be avoided by the United States Government. It is also worth considering that if the expedition of the American troops in pursuit of Villa lasts any longer it may be against those troops' prestige even in the eyes of the very American people, since they would prove to be inefficient and unable to accomplish the enterprise they started; and finally, the withdrawal of the American expedition from our country will undoubtedly prevent a new incident that might result in ulterior complications. You may also assure the Secretary of State that this Government has sent sufficient troops to capture Villa and his band, but that the roughness of the region where he is operating makes the pursuit somewhat difficult against our wishes, and new troops will be sent to that zone besides those already available there, if it becomes necessary. To end with, suggest to the Secretary of State the conveniency of having the American Government protect hereafter the boundary line on that side with the number of troops it deems necessary. I shall appreciate your answer on results. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 25).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, March 21st, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Queretaro:

This afternoon I called on Department of State at the request of Acting Secretary Mr. Polk, who, in response to our Government's proposal of the project for a treaty upon reciprocal rights to send troops across border into each other's territory for the pursuit of bandits, handed me a new project, requesting that I make it known to my Government, which project reads as follows:

PROJECT OF AN AGREEMENT REGARDING SENDING OF TROOPS ACROSS BOUNDARY LINE, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. Agreement made in behalf of their respective Governments by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Robert Lansing, and Licenciado Eliseo Arredondo, Agent of the "De Facto" Government of the Mexican United States, regulating the reciprocal passing of troops across the boundary line for the pursuit of armed bands of outlaws, under the conditions stated herein: Article 1.—It is agreed that the regular troops of the two Republics may reciprocally cross over the border line in pursuit of band of outlaws or armed groups that may have entered from one country into the other, and, having committed outrages in the foreign country, try to escape back again across the border. Article 2.—The reciprocal passing of troops agreed upon in Article 1 will only have effect in places with sparse population or unprotected, of the territory on either side of the boundary line, and in no instance at any shorter distance than.... kilometers from any cantonment or city in the territory in which the pursuit takes place, unless such cantonment or city are located in a mountainous district hard to get in communication with. Article 3.—The Commander of the troops going across the border according to the terms of this Agreement, at the time of starting their march or even before if it were possible, must inform the nearest Commander or civil authority of the country he is going to enter, as to the number of troops of all technical divisions that go under his command. Article 4.—The Government of the country in which the pursuit is made agrees to co-operate by all possible means with the pursuing forces, in order that bands of outlaws may be promptly subjected to a summary execution. Article 5.—The pursuing forces will retire to their own country as soon as the band they went after is punished or when they do not succeed in their attempt. In no case will the

pursuing forces establish themselves or remain in foreign territory for a time longer than is necessary to effect the persecution of the band they went after. Article 6.—Under no excuse nor consideration shall the persecuting forces of either country occupy cities or cantonments located in the territory where they effect the persecution according to the terms of this agreement. Article 7.—All abuses that may be committed by the pursuing forces will be punished by the Government they belong to, according to the seriousness of the offense and as the laws establish, just as if such offenses had been committed in its own territory. The individuals directly responsible for such offenses will be taken back from the border and a prompt indemnity will be given to the people damaged. Article 8.—In case of abuses committed by the inhabitants of a country against the pursuing forces of the other, the Government of the country where such abuses were committed will only be responsible to the Government of the other country in case of denial of justice, that is, in case of refusing to punish the people responsible for the offenses. Article 9.—This agreement shall begin to be in force from the very date it is signed, and kept so until either of the contracting parties advises the other two months beforehand. In witness whereof we have signed this agreement today, the... of the year....

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 26).

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL AGENT, STATE DEPARTMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Queretaro, March 21st, 1916.—At 6 p. m.

Honorable General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram dated at Washington March 20th, 1916, at 11 p. m. The telegram reads as follows:

“Washington, March 20th, 1916, at 11 p. m.—Mr. James Lind Rodgers, Special Agent of the American Government: You shall express to General Carranza, in terms of the deepest consideration and friendly assurances, the regret this Government feels for any suspicion he may have had or any misunderstanding he may have supposed in regard to the determined purpose of the expedition,

which only purpose is to pursue and capture Villa unless he is captured by the "De Facto" Government's forces.

You shall give General Carranza all kinds of assurances that immediately after this purpose is accomplished, this Government's forces will retire from Mexican territory into their own country. From the start of our expedition our troops received instructions in a most explicit manner, to scrupulously abstain themselves from any act that might cause the slightest friction or the least criticism, and in future operations as far as it possible, to act in full accordance with the "De Facto" authorities, and this Government confidentially assures Mr. Carranza that our forces will not disobey one point the instructions they were given, and therefore, as far as the Government or its troops are concerned, there is not the slightest cause for the least misunderstanding.

You shall also say to General Carranza that regarding the agreement, Señor Arredondo submitted today the project of a reciprocal agreement telegraphically suggested by the Foreign Office; that this Government agrees with it in principle, and for the best adaptability some modifications of the same agreement are under consideration with all haste.

This Government understands that an agreement such as the one we refer to will have an immediate and efficacious result, being of great influence as to the cordial relations of the two countries, since all transgressions and provocations on the border will now stop.

Please besides inform General Carranza that this time, nevertheless, this Government, acting only with the intention of keeping the friendly relations now existing between both governments, accepted without hesitation the proposal made on March 10th by the Minister of Foreign Affairs through Mr. Silliman. The only hope for success depended on prompt action in the effort to capture Villa, who was a constant menace to the friendly relations of both countries.

The troops sent across the border are under the command of General John Pershing, and include cavalry, infantry and artillery. As to the place where they are it cannot be ascertained, but it is believed that they are in the neighborhood of San Miguel. From all reports received at the Department, according to instructions given, the expedition appears to be co-operating with the forces of the "De Facto" Government. Apparently they both co-operate in the friendly effort to achieve the finalities so much wished for by our governments.

You shall also request General Carranza to give his instructions in order that the Chihuahua authorities lend their full co-operation to the expedition, and advise him that the Department will wire him within twenty-four hours, after consulting with Mr. Arredondo, on a certain idea we wish to suggest for the better co-operation of

the two powers in the expedition referred to.—Polk, Acting Secretary of State.

According to my instructions I have the honor to request that the inserted telegram be laid immediately before the Chief Executive, requesting him to give his orders to the Chihuahua authorities to lend their full co-operation to the Expedition.

Awaiting your answer that I may promptly inform my Government, I have the honor to be, Mr. Secretary, with all esteem,

Very respectfully yours,

JAMES LINN RODGERS,
Special Representative of the State Department.

(Doc. No. 27).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, March 23d, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Minister, Queretaro:

Just met Mr. Lansing, who is back, and made present to him considerations included in code message of day before yesterday. He was as cordial as ever, and said like Mr. Polk that he regretted to have misunderstood the first agreement on passing of troops; that these would not advance any further south; that he expected answer from General Carranza to his proposal of an agreement which I transmitted yesterday, and he thought we would soon reach an agreement. I called his attention to the fact that the press announced every day the sending of more troops destined to Mexico and he said they were only going to the border to keep the line in all its length. He lamented also the exaggerations of the press and marked specially the *Washington Post*, which he says is interventionist and at the same time an enemy to this Administration. He finally repeated that the American Government insisted and was still firm in its attitude of non-intervetnion in Mexico, but, on the contrary, wished to avoid it. My opinion is that, in fact, Mr. Wilson as well as Mr. Lansing sincerely intends to avoid a conflict, but are being carried away by the public opinion which is misinformed and exalted by the Republican press, enemy to the Administration and to the Executive. On account of this pressure the sending of troops to Mexico was decided upon, and for that same reason they are afraid to draw back the American forces without capturing Villa. In the meanwhile the press continues making news and building up conjectures which excite the minds and exalt all passions. Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 28).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, March 25th, 1916.

Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

By orders of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army please hand personally to the State Secretary the project of agreement you will find herewith, which contains some reforms to the one you sent from the United States Government. The text is as follows:

Agreement concluded in behalf of their respective governments by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Robert Lansing, and Eliseo Arredondo, Ambassador of the Mexican Government, regulating the passing of troops of their respective governments across the boundary line in pursuit of armed bands of outlaws, under the following conditions:

Article 1.—It is hereby agreed that the regular troops of the two Republics can reciprocally go across the boundary line at any point between the Colorado River and Piedras Negras, and operate within a zone of sixty kilometers from the border of either country for the purpose of pursuing the bands of outlaws or armed groups that enter from one country into the other, and, having committed transgressions in foreign soil, try to escape back across the boundary line.

Article 2.—The reciprocal passing of troops agreed upon in Article 1 will take place only in regions of sparse population or not protected of the territory on both sides of the border, and in no instance at a distance any less than ten kilometers from any cantonment or city in the territory where the pursuit is to be made, unless such cantonment or city be located in a mountainous district hard to get in communication with.

Article 3.—The commander of the troops going across the frontier according to the terms to this Agreement, at the moment of starting their march or even previously if possible, will give the nearest commander or civil authorities of the other country in whose territory he is about to enter, a report as to the number of troops he takes with him, with the understanding that only cavalry may be used for that purpose, and never above one thousand men in numbers, carrying machine-guns with their equipment being allowed.

Article 4.—The Government of the country in which the pursuit is made, if it deems it convenient, may ask the help of the other country's troops, which started the pursuit, and in this case it is

agreed that said Government will co-operate by all possible means with the pursuing forces in order that the bands of outlaws may promptly be exterminated.

Article 5.—The pursuing force will return into its own territory as soon as it overtakes and fights, within the above mentioned zone, the band it is pursuing, or as soon as such pursuing force gets in touch with forces of the other country, which will then take up the pursuit. In no case will the pursuing forces establish themselves or remain in foreign country any longer than eight days, unless their help is asked in the terms of the previous article.

Article 6.—No pursuit can be started in either country when three days have elapsed from the day the raid of the bandits took place, unless said band stays in the same territory and the respective forces start their pursuit in their own country, having to continue it on the other side of the border because of the outlaws fleeing to the country they proceed from.

Article 7.—Under no excuse nor consideration of any kind may the pursuing forces of either country occupy cities or cantonments located in the country where the pursuit is effected according to the terms of the Agreement.

Article 8.—All offenses committed by the pursuing forces will be punished by the Government they belong to, according to the seriousness of the offense, and applying the laws just as if such offenses had been committed within their own territory. The individuals directly responsible will be sent back from the border and the due indemnity will be immediately paid to the people damaged.

Article 9.—It is clearly established that the personal acts committed by the commanders of the forces and their individuals, by confusion or any other reason, as well as all deeds of the inhabitants of each country, will not thrust any responsibility upon the respective governments nor cause the breaking or alteration in the friendly relations binding both countries. In case that the inhabitants of a country should commit offenses against the pursuing forces of the other, the Government of the country where such offenses were committed will be responsible to the Government of the other country only in case of denial of justice or refusing to punish the responsible individuals.

Article 10.—This Agreement shall be in force from the date it is signed and will remain so until either of the contracting parties advises the other two months before the date of its rescission.

In witness whereof this Agreement is signed on the....

Please express to the Secretary of State that the Mexican Government insists on the necessity of consigning in the Agreement the stipulations regarding limits of the zone within which are to operate the troops starting the pursuing, their time of stay in it and the maximum number of soldiers allowed to enter either country.

The reasons the Mexican Government has to insist on these points of the Agreement are as follows:

In first place, it does not consider that at any places located west of the Colorado River or east of Piedras Negras may there be the necessity of making use of the Agreement, since the bands of outlaws which are trying to disturb the peace and create conflicts between the two countries operate only in territory of the States of Sonora and Chihuahua, it being well known that Villa and his band have never gone out of the boundaries of those States, while it is considered as remote the case of their passing out of this zone of operations, which would make it necessary to extend the effects of the Agreement to the whole length of the boundary line. In second place, the same Government considers it necessary by all means that the zone of action for the troops engaged in a pursuit be limited by a line which they may never trespass; such limit, according to article first of the reformed project, embraces sixty kilometers from the boundary line in each country and it must be considered that such territory is enough for the pursuing forces to start their operations until they get in touch with the forces of the country where the enemy has taken refuge, which undoubtedly are the forces with full right, obligation and interest to continue the pursuit. In third place, in order to fight an enemy who is trying to escape the pursuit, as the Villa band, which is all mounted and moves swiftly, it is not necessary that the pursuing power be formed of any other technical division but cavalry, since infantry and artillery, on account of their very nature, move rather slowly and even constitute a handicap for any quick action. In this regard the Mexican Government considers that the use of artillery and infantry in a column is not only intended for the pursuit, but may give place to misinterpretations and even to real conflicts caused by the inhabitants of either country seeing their land invaded by foreign troops of all divisions. With such equipment the people, unable to understand the case, considering it a hostile invasion, would become suspicious and distrust said foreign powers. In fourth place, the Mexican Government considers that from the moment the pursuing forces have got in touch with the forces of the country they entered in to carry on their pursuit, this expedition becomes perfectly unnecessary, unless the importance of the enemy is too great, or if on account of any other reasons it is considered by the respective commanders that their Government must solicit the reciprocal help of the forces which started the action against the band. Therefore the necessity of fixing a limit to the stay in foreign country of the forces beginning the pursuit, which limit will be eight days, since this time seems to be enough to enter into and get out of the whole zone referred to in Article 1, and also to get in touch with the forces of the country where the enemy took refuge, so that the foreign forces may be substituted by

the native forces. Finally, the limitation of numbers is a capital point, because it must be supposed that the bands of outlaws are not numerous, and, anyway, cavalry forces will be enough for their pursuit, containing no more than one thousand men, since technically speaking, this is the maximum number of men forming a light flying corps. If the passing of a greater number of troops were allowed, it would give occasion to wrong interpretations, which it is necessary to avoid by all means in behalf of the friendly relations between the two countries, that we must keep unaltered.

Within this order of ideas you are left at liberty to enlarge your arguments according to your judgment when you discuss the matter with the State Department, being pleased to send a timely report to this Department in regard to the resolution taken by the United States Government. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 29).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, March 25th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro:

I just saw Mr. Lansing and advised him on the contents of your code message of yesterday, speaking also about exportation of our ammunition from New York and frontier ports, false reports appearing in the press published at the border towns, etc. He was glad to hear that the protocol was under study; said to me there was no disposition to stop shipments of ammunition by sea or through border points, the only requirement being the identification of each shipment to prevent the ammunition from falling in Villa's hands. He showed indignation at Americans who, like other foreigners, are forcing intervention, but said Mr. Wilson and the whole Administration insisted on avoiding it and nothing would change their opinion. In our conversation he oftentimes said they were satisfied with the prudence displayed by General Carranza, and said it depended on me to reach a favorable solution for the incident, because I was here and I was supposed to know the real situation and should inform my Government accordingly. That if he and I continued in good harmony and perfect understanding discussing this matter, everything would be satisfactorily settled for both governments. Remarked that, as I saw, there was at the Congress a group of enemies of the Administration and of the Mexicans who would avail themselves of the least excuse to urge

intervention. He invited me to continue discussing the incident in the same friendly form and not to allow it to pass from our hands and go to Congress. Finally he read to me the messages received from the border informing him that everything is quiet, and one of them from Mr. Rodgers, very satisfactory also, saying that the efficacy of General Carranza was evident. Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 30).

TELEGRAM.

El Paso, Texas, March 26th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro, Queretaro:

Agent sent to Columbus informs American troops now in Mexican territory number twelve thousand, cavalry and artillery in their majority, with twenty-eight pieces including mortars and guns of different calibers. It seems they also carried along two hundred machine guns, but this point could not be made clear. It is believed they have engineering corps, for they took abundant equipment for them. Close vigilance is exerted by Americans on all Mexicans at Columbus. The town called Palomas is fully deserted, and all residences and telephone wires were destroyed, as well as the telephone plant. Old inhabitants of Palomas have left toward the center of the country. In Columbus only very old Mexican residents remain. Palomas is still closed. With all regard.

ANDRES G. GARCIA.

(Doc. No. 31).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, March 27th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary Foreign Affairs, Queretaro:

Press of yesterday publishes the following statement made by President Wilson:

"As it has been already announced, the Mexican expedition was ordered according to an agreement made with the "De Facto"

Government of that country, for the only purpose of capturing Villa, whose forces have just invaded the United States territory; but this by no means purports an invasion of that Republic nor a violation to her sovereignty. Consequently, I have requested of the various information services to please help my Administration by constantly giving that character to the expedition before the people of this country and before the impatient and susceptible Mexican people, too susceptible indeed in regard to impressions they receive from the American press, and always inclined to believe that such impressions proceed from acts and purposes of our Government. These conclusions, it must be said, are perfectly natural, since the main, if not the only source of information for the peoples on both sides of the border is the public press of the United States. In order to avoid an erroneous and dangerous impression in this regard, I have appealed to various News Agencies to take greater care so that no news or stories are given out in regard to the expedition attaching to it the character of a war; to impede the publication of news on troop actions and military preparations that might have such interpretation, and to abstain themselves from giving publicity to unconfirmed rumors of disturbances in Mexico. I believe that it is much more desirable to impress the minds of our people as well as those of the Mexican people with the fact that the expedition is simply and necessarily a punitive measure, moved only by our wish to eliminate the marauders who committed depredations in Columbus and who have invaded an unprotected district near the border, which they use as their base to commit transgressions and outrages against our citizens within our own territory. It is the intention of our commander to co-operate by all possible means with General Carranza's forces to eliminate any reason of discontent between both governments, and to draw such forces back as soon as they have fulfilled their mission. It is my duty to warn the United States people against certain persons along the border who are actively engaged in originating and carrying on as much as they can, sensational rumors of the most disquieting kind, which are in no way justified by facts. The object of such traffic of false reports is obvious; it is intended by means of it to create an intolerable friction between the United States and the "De Facto" Government of Mexico to bring on intervention in behalf of certain wealthy Americans who have properties in Mexico. This purpose cannot materialize while rightminded and honorable officials are at the head of this Government, but may create very serious conditions and even an unnecessary shedding of blood as the result of it, or at least the relations between the two Republics may become much more embarrassing. The United States people must know that there are sinister influences without scruples, and should be warned not to give credit to any story coming from the border; and those who publish news should consider it a

matter of patriotism and of conscience to ascertain first the source and authenticity of each report they receive from such places."

Today's press says Republican leaders agreed not to hamper President Wilson's policy, accepting his declarations to the effect that the troops sent to the border are enough to protect the American interests. They add that Villa has escaped the pursuit of the Mexican and American forces, fleeing to the Tarahumare Sierra, where it will be very difficult to capture him. Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 32).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, March 31st, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador, Washington, D. C.:

Please call on Secretary of State and call his attention to statement made by President Wilson in declarations of 26th regarding the expedition, which he said was sent according to agreement, because First Chief's note dated the 10th refers only to reciprocal passing of troops in case of new similar incidents as that of Columbus. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 33).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, April 5th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro:

I just received from State Department the following counter-proposition of agreement and the note I insert herein requesting of you to give immediate instructions:

Project of Agreement:

Article 1.—It is hereby agreed that the regular forces of the governments of the two Republics may reciprocally cross the section of the boundary line between the Colorado River and Piedras Negras, to operate within a zone of sixty kilometers from the border

in each country for the purpose of pursuing bands of armed men that may have entered from one country into the other, committed outrages in foreign territory and then escaped back through the same boundary line.

Article 2.—The reciprocal passing of troops agreed upon in Article 1, will take place only in deserted or unprotected places of the territory along each side of the border, and in no instance at places located less than ten kilometers from any cantonment or city within the territory where the pursuit is made, unless such cantonment or city be found in a mountainous district hard to get in communication with.

Article 3.—The commander of the forces crossing the border in accordance with the terms of this agreement, at the moment of stepping over the boundary or before, if possible, will inform the nearest commander or civil authorities of the country he is going into as to his proposed action and the number of troops under his command.

Article 4.—The government of the country where the pursuit takes place will co-operate by all possible means with the pursuing force to the effect that the bands of outlaws be captured with all speed and annihilated.

Article 5.—The pursuing forces will draw back to their own country as soon as they have overcome and fought, within the zone referred to, the bands of outlaws they are pursuing. In no case shall the pursuing forces establish themselves nor remain in foreign territory for longer than fifteen days, unless called to do so by local authorities of said territory.

Article 6.—No pursuit will be made in territory of either nation unless it starts within three days of the band of outlaws having fled across the boundary.

Article 7.—Under no excuse nor consideration of any kind will the pursuing forces of either country occupy cities or cantonments located in the country where the pursuit is made as a result of this agreement. The Government to which the pursuing forces belong shall pay their subsistence and whatever other expenses are made on account of their expedition.

Article 8.—All offenses committed by the pursuing forces will be punished by the Government they belong to, according to the seriousness of the offense. The people directly responsible for such offenses will be immediately withdrawn from the border and an indemnity will be promptly paid to the people damaged.

Article 9.—If the inhabitants of a country should commit outrages against the foreign pursuing forces, the government of the country where such offenses are committed will be responsible to the government of the other country only in case of denial of justice or if it refuses to punish the people responsible for them.

Article 10.—This agreement will be in force from the moment

it is signed, and will remain so until any of the contracting powers announces its intention to rescind it two months beforehand.

In witness whereof, etc.

The note reads as follows: "Sir: The United States Government, concluding the reciprocal agreement with the "De Facto" Government of Mexico in regard to the pursuit of bands of outlaws across the boundary line by military forces of the respective governments, does so with the understanding that the conditions therein established are not applicable to the United States forces now in Mexico pursuing Villa and his band, those which attacked and set fire to Columbus, New Mexico, killing some American citizens; said United States forces having gone to Mexico in all good faith under previous agreement effected as a result of the outrage committed by the outlaws at Columbus on the 9th of March. The United States Government assures the "De Facto" Government of Mexico that in exercising the privilege of entry into Mexican territory it will confine the operation of its military forces to the only purpose of the actual pursuit and that right after achieving its purposes such forces will retire from the boundary line. The United States Government avails itself of this opportunity to express its thankfulness for the consideration and friendship shown by the "De Facto" Government, and the United States Government will always respect the confidence thus shown to it, protesting also that it will never violate Mexico's sovereignty nor abuse the privilege so generously and freely granted by the "De Facto" Government. Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my consideration.—Robert Lansing." Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 34).

Washington, April 5th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro:

I thought it also convenient to let you know the letter with which Mr. Lansing sent me the counter-project and the note I transmitted to you yesterday evening, which is as follows:

"My dear Mr. Arredondo: I am including herewith a new project of the proposed agreement, to which we gave the due consideration, and in which we have tried to incorporate, as far as possible, the precepts wished by your Government. I believe that variations between your project and ours are of a nature that your Government may accept them and the Agreement may be signed right away, since as it was worded it could not be applied to the

American forces now in Mexico without retiring them completely from the pursuit of Villa and his band, in which they are engaged, and since it would be impracticable and imprudent to draw back the United States forces when the capture of those outlaws seems near at hand. I have written a formal note, a copy of which I send herewith, excepting the actual situation from the terms of the Agreement, to which I hope your Government will acquiesce as well as to said Agreement. I believe that our Government should act in full accordance in this matter, and that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico will appreciate the great expenditures of energy and money this Government has already incurred, and the conveniency to consent to the ideas expressed in the formal note, since such assent seems to this Government a necessary condition for the signing of the Agreement.

I am sure that you, who are so familiarized with the situation, will understand the necessity of the note and the purposes of this Government, and will advise your Government in conformity.—I am, my dear Mr. Arredondo, sincerely yours.—(Signed) Lansing."

Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 35).

Queretaro, April 12th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

I took up with the First Chief your telegram dated the 5th inst. containing a counter-project of Agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops across the boundary line and the additional note which on the same date the Honorable Secretary of State addressed to you, having put before the same First Chief the private letter addressed to you by the Secretary of State himself, in regard to the same matter.

I have the First Chief's instructions to tell you to please deliver to the Secretary of State the following note:

"To His Excellency Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America, Washington.—Mr. Secretary: The Mex-

ican Government, wishing to conserve the good friendly relations that must exist between Mexico and the United States, always cordial and unaltered, for such are the feelings of the same Government, as also wishing to comply with the spirit of Article 21 of the Treaty of 1848; having in view the lamentable happenings occurred at Columbus on the 9th of March, and having in mind certain historical precedents of similar cases, said Mexican Government did not hesitate in making to the United Government a proposition by which the forces of both countries might reciprocally cross the boundary line in pursuit of outlaws, if most unfortunately any cases like that of Columbus should again occur along the border; because from the first the Mexican Government judged that on account of the time that had elapsed, and because that case was considered as a thing of the past, said incident could not be included in the proposition regarding reciprocal passing of troops.

It is for this reason that the note of our Government dated March 10th, indicated with all clearness that the proposal it contained was conditional, that is, that the reciprocity could only have effect if a raid like that of Columbus should unfortunately occur at any other point of the boundary line.

The American Government, basing its action on that very note but without having fully understood its meaning, the conditions it established and the limitations it implied, but on the contrary, believing that there existed already a definite agreement, as is indicated by the expressions of the note dated March 13th, where it says that "the United States Government understands that in view of its consent to this reciprocal agreement proposed by the "De Facto" Government, such agreement is now complete and is in force, and that the above-mentioned reciprocal privilege may be used by each government without any further exchange of view," the American Government considered itself already authorized to send into Mexican territory the so-called punitive expedition, intended to pursuit and punish Villa and his band of outlaws, an expedition which was sent some days after the transgressors had fled back into Mexican territory.

On the 17th of the same month the Mexican Government addressed a note to the American Government through our Confidential Agent at Washington, Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, expressing to have had reliable reports to the effect that without the consent of, nor giving any advice to, the civil or political authorities of our territory nearest to the border, and without any previous notice from the American Government to the Mexican Government, a so-called punitive expedition had come through Palomas intended to pursue Villa and his band, and as a result of it our Confidential Agent was instructed to call the attention of the United States Government to the fact that the text of our note of March 10th was being wrongly interpreted, because the Mexican Government being disposed

to keep up its proposition upon reciprocal passing of troops, an expedition could still be sent across while the terms and conditions of a definite agreement were not clearly established. This Government insisted, in its note of March 17th, that the reciprocal passing of troops would only be allowed if "unfortunately from now on raids like that of Columbus or of any other kind should again take place at any point of the **boundary line.**"

In the meantime the Mexican Government, still standing by its proposal and with the intention of strictly fulfilling its obligations, engaged itself immediately in drafting a project of Agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops, which project was presented in due form to the United States Government on March 18th, expecting that the terms and conditions established in such Agreement would meet its approval. The American Government, through our Confidential Agent, also advised that it accepted the Agreement, in principle, and only intended to study a few points of secondary character, mere details, to conclude it.

In these conditions, the 19th of March, Honorable James Linn Rodgers presented a note to this Department, in behalf of the American Government, requesting that orders were given to the corresponding authorities in Chihuahua to allow the transportation of some supplies for the American troops which were pursuing Villa and his band, using the Northwest Railroad of Mexico; and on the same date the Mexican Government, without consenting to such request, answered that note expressing its surprise at the fact that without any previous official communication from the United States Government, American troops should have crossed the boundary line into Mexican territory, and that such troops were now located at Casas Grandes or its vicinity, the fact increasing our surprise that we were just discussing through the proper channels, and on account of the lamentable happenings of Columbus, the last points regarding conditions and terms of an Agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops into each other's country, in conformity with the spirit of our note dated March 10th and above referred to.

On March 18th our Confidential Agent at Washington held an interview with the Honorable Frank L. Polk, actually acting Secretary of State, this gentleman having expressed to our Confidential Agent that he regretted not to have received the objections of the Mexican Government before sending the troops to the border, objections that would have been duly attended to; assured that the sending of troops was intended in all good faith, with the understanding that it would not be necessary to enter into new details of the Agreement, which was then considered as definitive and concluded. These declarations made by the Honorable Mr. Polk were confirmed in all their parts in the conference held on the 23d by our Confidential Agent with Your Excellency, who likewise ex-

pressed that you regretted to have misunderstood the contents of our said note in regard to the sending of troops, which would not advance any further southward from the place where they were at that moment, as Your Excellency gave assurances to our Confidential Agent.

On March 19th, the Honorable Mr. Polk addressed a note to our Confidential Agent in Washington, ratifying by note his verbal declarations of the previous day, and expressing in a clear and definite way that it was a source of sincere regret that such misunderstanding should have arisen in regard to the attitude of the First Chief upon the sending of United States troops across the border in pursuit of Villa, because the State Department of the United States believed that our Government had fully consented to it by means of the Agreement proposed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs at that time, Señor Acuña, in his note dated March 10th, an agreement that the United States Government accepted in note of the 12th, delivered to this Government by the Special Representative Mr. Silliman, and by which the troops of either and both nations could, under certain conditions, follow the outlaws within each other's territory.

In the declarations that His Excellency President Woodrow Wilson made public on March 26th, said high official expressed himself thus: "As it has been already announced, the Mexican expedition was ordered under an Agreement that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico made with us for the only purpose of capturing Villa, the outlaw whose forces just invaded the United States territory, and under no excuse an invasion of that Republic has been meant, nor any violation to her sovereignty."

Such expression of His Excellency President Wilson was ratified on the 31st of the same month by means of a message sent to our Confidential Agent at Washington, in which he was given instructions to call on Your Excellency and call attention to the above-mentioned statement, because the repeated note of March 10th refers only to passing of troops in case of incidents like that of Columbus occurring again.

Finally, on the 5th inst., Your Excellency handed our Confidential Agent the new project of Agreement upon reciprocal passing of troops, to submit it to the consideration of the Mexican Government; such project being accompanied by a note where the American Government expresses its confidence that the conditions therein contained will not be applied to the American forces actually in Mexican territory pursuing Villa, assuring that in using that privilege of entering into our territory those forces will continue their military operations for the only purpose of the expedition, and will retire right afterward to their own country; and Your Excellency expresses your thankfulness toward the Mexican Government for having reached—as you expressed it—an Agreement by

which the United States forces are allowed to pursue Villa and his band in Mexican territory, with the understanding that the American Government is most willing to respect the confidence shown, and that in no way will it violate the Mexican sovereignty nor abuse the privilege so generously and freely extended.

Now well, while the Mexican Government has proposed to the United States authorities the making of a formal Agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops with full understanding as to terms and conditions to regulate such action, yet, the character and nature of the notes exchanged about the subject, which notes are essentially included in this communication, make the Mexican Government suppose that the American Government must be perfectly convinced that the expedition sent into Mexican territory in pursuit of Villa is not authorized on account of the non-existence of any previous Agreement in regard to the only point under discussion thus far.

As for the rest of it, the same Honorable Secretary of State, Mr. Polk, in the conferences he held with our Confidential Agent as Washington, expressed that the United States Government had acted in all good faith when sending the expedition to Mexico for the pursuit of Villa, under the impression that the note of March 1st contained a definitive Agreement, but that the same American Government assented to the stay of the expedition in Mexican territory only while the arrangements for the formal Agreement are made.

If today the American Government claims that the expedition sent against Villa be considered as an exceptional case which must be left out of the terms of the Agreement, it seems perfectly useless to continue discussing the conditions and details of the same, since it may be made later on if it is deemed convenient in case of future re-occurrences of such lamentable happenings as that of Columbus.

As a consequence of what has been expressed, since no final agreement has been reached as to the terms of the treaty or Agreement regulating in a general way the reciprocal sending of troops across the boundary line for the only purpose of following outlaws who may hereafter commit outrages in either country, the Mexican Government deems it convenient to give up for the present all discussion or negotiations in this regard; and, basing its action on the fact the expedition sent by the United States Government to pursue Villa lacks any authority by virtue of the non-existence of a previous, formal and definite treaty; considering also that such expedition has not fulfilled its mission and would never attain its purposes, since the Villa band has been dispersed, and, finally, since there are enough Mexican troops to pursue that outlaw and more reinforcements are constantly being sent to annihilate the rest of the defeated band, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive of the Union, considers that it is time to

treat with the United States Government regarding the withdrawal of its forces from our territory.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Honorable Secretary of State, to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

C. AGUILAR.

Hearty greetings.—C. Aguilar.

(Doc. No. 36).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, April 12th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington:

Please confer with the Honorable Secretary Lansing and make him know that today at 1 p. m., a column of one hundred and forty American soldiers entered Parral. The city Mayor, Jose de la Luz Herrera, immediately called the attention of the commander to the inconvenience of his entering the town, the soldiers having then left the city; but as they were marching out the people of the town made a demonstration, the Mayor and the military chiefs having tried to stop them by means of harangues in order to avoid friction. However, due to the imprudence of a private citizen who fired his revolver, a riot ensued and the shooting killed an American, while several civilians of the town were wounded by the American soldiers. The military chiefs succeeded in stopping the people at Maturana to prevent them from following, as they intended, the American force, and our Constitutionalist soldiers formed a barrier to restrain the enraged multitude. The Mexican Government from the start expressed to the American Government that the passing of American troops through our towns was very inconvenient, because we knew it would be almost impossible to avoid friction between the soldiers and the people, and even our forces when they came to a clash, and the American Government agreed to give instructions to their troops to abstain themselves from occupying any towns. The Mexican Government laments the occurrence, which was beyond its power to prevent, and the same Mexican Government insists with the American Government on the necessity to have the American forces draw out of our territory in order to prevent any alteration of the good and cordial relations that both countries should always maintain. Please report results. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

VERBAL STATEMENT:

Mr. James Linn Rodgers, Confidential Agent of the State Department of the United States of America, called at the Department of Foreign Affairs at 5 p. m. on the 15th of April, 1916, and delivered the following verbal statement before the Secretary, requesting that his declaration be communicated in equal form to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the Executive Power:

"The State Department wishes me to communicate that the said office has received from Señor Arredondo the esteemed note of the "De Facto" Government dated the 12th inst., in regard to a subject which was given very careful consideration. The intention of the Department of State of the United States is exactly the same as demonstrated from the beginning when the American troops entered Mexico, that is, to procure the capture of Villa the outlaw. It is wished to repeat once more to the "De Facto" Government of Mexico that there is no intention to violate in any way Mexico's sovereignty, and that there is the purpose of withdrawing the expedition as soon as it has fulfilled its object. It seems that the best way to accomplish the purposes of the expedition and to hasten the withdrawal of the American troops would be, as regards the "De Facto" Government, to increase its forces around the region where most probably Villa hides himself, so as to secure a swift capture. The United States Government thinks to be correct in the proposition that Villa's capture would result in greater benefit for the "De Facto" Government than for the United States Government, and also that said capture would be more speedily obtained by means of co-operation, which is more practical, than by means of frequent conferences between the military Commanders operating at the battlefield. The American Government thinks that the immediate retirement of the American troops from Mexico, would only increase the importance of Villa and his as well as the followers of Diaz who operate near the border. The United States Government considers that the "De Facto" Government would regret such results, and consequently the American Government hopes that the withdrawal of their troops will be nearer if acting within a more liberal spirit and with full knowledge of the fact that the action of the United States Government is inspired only by the desire to achieve the common objects without affecting in any way the friendly relations existing between the two peoples.

(Doc. No. 38).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, April 17th, 1916.

Señor Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

Representative Rodgers of American State Department made here a verbal exposition to this Government, of the substance of a message sent by the State Department in answer to our note of April 12th. Once informed the First Chief about said verbal exposition, he resolved to tell the Representative that this Government does not accept an answer in such form and considers that its note of the 12th has not been answered by the State Department. I made today such declaration, verbally, to Representative Rodgers, according to instructions of First Chief. Hearty greeting.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 39).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, May 3d, 1916.

First Chief of the Nation, Chapultepec, Mexico, D. F.:

I have the honor to transmit herein the Agreement reached with General Scott in the form of a Memorandum, to be transmitted to our respective Governments, at which we arrived after discussing for twelve hours. I beg to transmit it in English in order that its contents may be more exactly appreciated by yourself.

"Memorandum of the conference held between General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War of the Republic, Major General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the American Army, and Mayor General Frederick Funston, which they all subscribe and transmit to their respective Governments with the recommendation that it be approved. In view that the punitive expedition of the American forces has destroyed and dispersed many of the elements and outlaws who committed the last depredation in American territory in and about Columbus, New Mexico, or have pursued them far into the interior of the Republic of Mexico, and in view that the Constitutionalist Government declares to the United States Government that the former is carrying on a vigorous persecution upon the small bands of outlaws and bandits who have escaped, as well

as the further promises of the Constitutionalist Government that its forces are being increased to such extent that they will be able to avoid disorders in Mexico that might in any way damage the American territory; and in view of the promises made by the Constitutionalist Government to continue an effectual persecution, capture and extermination of outlaws and bandits existing or which may hereafter appear in Northern Mexico—the United States Government has decided to order immediately the gradual withdrawal of its troops. In fact the American Government has withdrawn small groups of troops in an approximate distance of one hundred miles from the southernmost point they had reached, for the purpose of supplying the expedition forces with food and forage not existing in that part of Mexico. The Constitutionalist Government of Mexico will make an adequate distribution of its own forces as it may be deemed necessary in order to prevent the possibilities of an invasion from Mexico of the American territory. The decision of the American Government to continue the gradual retirement from Mexico of the troops forming the punitive expedition was inspired by the belief that the Mexican Government is in a position not to omit any effort towards the prevention of such possible invasion of American territory; and the complete withdrawal of the American forces shall only be prevented by facts that may occur in Mexico tending to prove that such belief was erroneously founded. The conferring representatives of both Governments express their satisfaction for the friendly arrangement of the question discussed at the conferences, and believe that this will make more solid the good relations existing between their respective countries.” Respectfully.

ALVARO OBREGON,

Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 40).

Mexico, May 6th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Juarez, Chihuahua:

I refer to your Memorandum containing the points discussed in the interview you held with General Scott. The document begins affirming that the American troops have carried out an effectual campaign against the Villa bands which assaulted Columbus, and that “our Government declares for its part that it is carrying on an active campaign against the small groups of bandits and lawless

elements which have succeeded in escaping." This should not be stated in the Memorandum as a mere declaration of the Constitutionalist Government, but as a fact, in the same form in which the task performed by the American forces is stated.

The Memorandum declares that "the United States Government has resolved to gradually withdraw the forces forming the punitive expedition," in view of the assurances given by the Constitutionalist Government to carry on the campaign by itself and to guarantee the American interests along the border.

The only thing that should be stated is that the forces are withdrawn on account of the Villa band having being dispersed, so that the reason why the American forces crossed the boundary line into Mexican territory, misinterpreting my note of March 10th addressed from Irapuato through Mr. Silliman, has disappeared. Furthermore, the time shall be fixed for the foreign troops to leave our territory.

We agree to the Constitutionalist Government making a convenient distribution of its forces to prevent new invasions of Mexicans into American territory.

The Memorandum contains a paragraph in which the following is declared: "The decision of the American Government to continue the gradual withdrawal of the troops of the punitive expedition from Mexico, was inspired by the belief that the Mexican Government is now in a position, and will omit no effort, to prevent the recurrences of invasion of American territory, and the completion of the withdrawal of American troops will only be prevented by occurrences arising in Mexico tending to prove that such belief was wrongly founded."

On no account must we accept that any incident foreign to the one originating the coming of American troops should stop the withdrawal of the forces now in our territory, for our enemies might create another conflict similar to that of Columbus, and in that case we would have to agree, on account of the stipulations of the Memorandum, to have the Americans remain indefinitely in Mexico.

You must, therefore, call General Scott's attention to the fact that we ought not to discuss any probable future cases, but confine our discussion to the present case; that it must be clearly and openly declared in the Memorandum that there is no reason for the stay of American forces in our territory, and that they must be taken out within a period strictly necessary to have them re-cross the boundary line.

You shall also express, to be included in the modifications of the Memorandum, that the defense against outlaws trying to enter American territory must be made by the Government of that country, but only within its own territory until there is a formal

agreement between both governments for the reciprocal passing of troops of either Nation into the territory of the other.

If, as you seem to think, the American Government were willing to withdraw its forces because there is no object for their permanence in Mexican territory, it should have commenced to do it since the Memorandum was agreed upon and have them wholly out later on, whether or not we reached a final agreement as intended, just like such forces were sent into Mexico even before the signing of a reciprocal permit for the action taken.

The attitude of the United States Government does not create confidence in us, for while General Scott is discussing with you the taking out of its forces, said Government ordered an American warship of the Gulf fleet to enter as far into Mexican territory as Minatitlan without permission of the Mexican Government, fathoming the Coatzacoalcos River under the excuse of a visit of courtesy and saying that its purpose was to know the oil properties of "El Aguila;" for this reason I ordered at once a notification to be sent to the Commander of such warship to the effect that he should leave immediately and that his men would not be allowed to set foot on our territory.

There is also the fact that on the 23d of April the American sailship "Oregon" was captured in the Pacific when conveying provisions sent by the Constitutionalist Government to Guaymas, the British warship "Rainbow" having taken the said provisions, and there are sufficient reason to suppose that the capture was made with the consent of the American Government, because although the crew of the "Oregon" was landed in Lower California while the ship was carried away by the British man-of-war, the United States Government has made no claim whatsoever. Advice was received yesterday in the Foreign Office to the effect that probably the same British ship captured on the 3d inst. the small vessel "Lemon" of the Mexican merchant marine, taking also from her provisions we were sending to Sonora.

Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 41).

Ciudad Juarez, May 7th, 1916.

V. Carranza, Chapultepec:

I have the honor to communicate to you late happenings have gradually created here so delicate and momentous a situation, that

I judge indispensable not to abandon the respective telegraph stations without first having taken a definitive resolution, and it is on this account that I have troubled you by calling you to a conference by wire. At eleven o'clock, after having received the instructions you were pleased to give me and having notified Scott that I was ready to renew the conferences, we got together at the Immigration building, located upon the international bridge, Generals Scott and Funston and myself, I being accompanied by the attorney Mr. Amador, who acted as my interpreter during the conference. Scott began by telling me that he had succeeded in convincing his Government, after a two das' consultation, to authorize him to accept the Memorandum we drafted as a result of our conference of the 2d inst., and asked me whether I had instructions from my Government to accept it too. I answered that my Government had given me instructions to make a few changes to it and to present it again. Scott said to me his instructions were to consent to the Memorandum just as the original was drafted, and to ask me frankly and emphatically our answer without entering into new modifications nor new propositions, and absolutely end the conferences today. I expressed that my Government did not agree to the idea that for any new incident that might arise the American troops should delay their leaving our territory and suggested him the conveniency of fixing a certain time to effect the total retirement.

Scott then said to me that he was sorry to see that the Mexican Government still believed that the United States had any interest in keeping troops in our territory even though he was ready to declare that the withdrawal of the troops should commence immediately; that the new outrages of Boquillas, being as serious as those of Columbus, as I shall explain to you later on, might be a good excuse at present to stop the conferences and delay the withdrawal of the American forces, would not be taken into consideration to frame the attitude of the American Government, insisting that it would be effected as soon as the Memorandum was accepted. I told Scott that before giving him the categorical answer he desired I deemed it pertinent to inform you in regard to the new case of Boquillas and of the attitude of the American Government about it, promising him that after communicating with you I would give a categorical answer. Mr. Amador and I have at once agreed to transmit to you the clearest exposition of the actual situation applying to it our best judgment. The new raid into American territory is a matter of as serious a nature as the Columbus incident, since, according to official reports I have, from 500 to 600 men appeared around the point called Big Bend, where Boquillas is located, and two hundred of them attacked a garrison of nine soldiers, killing four of them and wounding three, the other two being missing. The outlaws also killed a ten-year-old boy and carried with them an American, after robbing him and

burning his house to the ashes. Furthermore, shouting "Viva Villa" and "Viva Carranza," they committed many other outrages and set fire to the town of Boquillas, devastating it almost to the ground. The official report also says that the outlaws fled back into Mexican territory and went across the river at San Bartolo, while the Constitutionalist troops had been taken away from the next garrisoned town fifteen days before. Early this morning the American forces started going out, but Scott told me they were going to reinforce their frontier to protect the towns of that region, but we fear, in view of the excitement and the restlessness prevailing here, that if we do not solve in a satisfactory manner the point we came to discuss in regard to the punitive expedition, it is almost certain that American troops will enter our territory through San Bartolo. About two hours ago the "El Paso Herald" issued an extra edition announcing that the American troops are marching, ready to cross the border and follow the outlaws. We are certain that if the terms of the Memorandum are accepted, which would satisfy the demands of the American Government for the retirement of troops, we could obtain the promise that such forces would effect their departure from Mexican territory within a very short time, thus saving both countries from an immediate and imminent clash. I dare make it clear with all frankness that it appears an illusion to me—the idea of resorting to arbitration according to Article 21 of the Treaty of 1848, to secure the withdrawal of the American forces, since on account of the excitement produced by the conferences we have held, I am sure that giving them up without a satisfactory result having been achieved, would bring upon us an immediate rupture. It is my personal opinion that if there is any possibility of new difficulties arising by the acceptancy of the above mentioned memorandum, even worse and more imminent are the difficulties to come if the agreement is rejected, and I consider myself with a mind broad enough to appreciate the situation in all its momentousness and importance, being here, right at the spot where the events take place. Weighing in my mind the opinion of the important revolutionary group which surrounds me at this moment, adding General Calles, who arrived from Sonora, bringing the impressions of that important border State, and in view of the haste with which we are compelled to act in this case, I earnestly request of you to please give me the necessary liberty of action to decide this matter under my personal responsibility, to the least disadvantage, on the principles of honor and patriotism that have moved all my acts. Finally, I beg to advise you that I was granted, to answer General Scott, a time expiring tomorrow morning at an

early hour. I shall expect at the station your decision, which in these moments will be life or death to our cause.

Respectfully,

General, **ALVARO OBREGON**,
Secretary of War and Navy.

Note.—I am in full accordance with the statement made above by General Obregon.

(Signed) **J. N. AMADOR**,
Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 42).

TELEGRAM.

Chapultepec, May 7th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Ciudad Juarez:

I greet you heartily. Read very carefully your code message of today, and I do not see the situation so serious except because the United States Government wants us to see it so. What is happening at present is not new, the United States Government knows it full well. The bands of outlaws working at present for the visible purpose of provoking a war between both countries should be taken less seriously as a cause of war than the bands of savage Indians who for such a long time were committing all kinds of outrages and crimes on both sides of the boundary line, and when these raids occurred no cause was found for war between our nations, nor even for a rupture of our relations. The band you inform me that just destroyed "Boquillas" could not possibly have been organized in our territory, since 500 or 600 men, armed and mounted, cannot be gathered in a large zone of the States of Coahuila and Chihuahua, for these States have a very sparse population. There are just a few deserted ranches of which I know a large part, because I once traveled through that region. The band in question must have been organized on the American side, and I know that other bands are being organized between Del Rio and Boquillas and near Laredo, and many others will still be organized, because the intention of our enemies who organized them is to provoke the intervention or ruin the prestige of the Constitutionalist Government, in order that our own elements may overthrow it if we allow the indefinite stay of American forces

in our territory. For this reason I cannot approve the Memorandum drafted by yourself and General Scott, and you can tell him openly and emphatically, as his Government wishes it, that I do not approve such Memorandum. If General Scott is not authorized to fix the time for the withdrawal from our territory of the American forces the conferences may as well be called off and I shall demand of the American Government an answer to my note relating to the retirement of its troops, which has not been answered. Make known to General Scott that any American force crossing the boundary line without previously agreeing between both governments to a reciprocal treaty to that effect, shall be considered as an invading force and I will order it to be fought. I regret not to be able to confer upon you broader powers to deal with this matter, because the responsibility is laid on my shoulders for the solution given to the case. I believe that the influence of the ambient in which yourself and the other officers are at present is unfavorable and prevents you from detecting the proper resolution of the conflict as we all see in the Republic. I took notice of the orders you gave to the General mentioned in your said code message. I think I have answered all the points of your telegram, but if you should need other explanations I shall give them very gladly.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 43).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, May 7th, 1916.

Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power, Mexico, D. F.:

I have the honor to advise you that General Scott has just informed me that in the surroundings of Ojinaga a band of 50 outlaws crossed the boundary line into United States territory and assaulted an encampment of American soldiers, killing three of them and wounding several, destroying some American property. Under such auspices shall our conferences re-open to-day at 11 a. m.—Respectfully,

A. OBREGON.

(Doc. No. 44).

TELEGRAM.

First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army, General Staff.

General Headquarters at the National Palace, May 7th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua:

I take note of your code message of today, communicating the incident that took place near Ojinaga, and stating that under such auspices will the conferences be reopened. Make General Scott understand that said band, as well as others I know of, are being organized near Del Rio and Laredo under different pretexts, on the American side; they come across the boundary line and then go back to the American side, as they just did in Ojinaga, where they committed outrages. On that account you must tell General Scott that the American Army should guard the boundary line on their territory in order to prevent the organization of such bands of outlaws that we cannot prevent, and which bands are not, as they seek them to appear, organized in Mexico to commit depredations on American territory. All this work is our enemies' endeavor to stop the American forces from being taken away from Mexican territory, and to provoke a war between the two nations, which could easily be averted if the American troops left Mexico at the earliest moment. It would be a great mistake to believe that their stay in our country prevents any new raids of marauders. Please inform General Scott further that I shall not consent by any means, under any excuse whatsoever, despite these new incidents, to the American troops coming into our territory, since that country is responsible for what occurs by not preventing the organization of such bands in their territory. Hearty greetings.

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V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 45).

TELEGRAM.

From Chapultepec, May 7th, 1916.

To Ciudad Juarez:

General Alvaro Obregon:

Since the result of the conferences between yourself and General Scott may not be favorable for us, I deem it advisable that

General Calles leave immediately for Sonora, to place himself at the head of his forces, and General Treviño for Monterrey for the same purpose. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 46).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters at the National Palace, May 8th, 1916.

General Luis Caballero, Acaponeta, Tepic:

Please make it known to the Governor at Culiacan and the Commander of Mazatlan that probably we shall reach no agreement with the United States, and our situation is extremely delicate. Therefore it is necessary to be ready for any emergency. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 47).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters at Chapultepec, May 8th, 1916.

General Alfredo Ricaut, Matamoros, Tamaulipas:

Colonel Fernando Peraldi, Piedras Negras, Coahuila:

VERY URGENT.

Our relations with the United States are very delicate and may be interrupted at any time. Be ready to avoid surprise of American forces in case of breaking. General Treviño is gone to Monterrey to head the forces of that zone. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 48).

TELEGRAM.

VERY URGENT.

General Headquarters at Chapultepec, May 8th, 1916.

General Emiliano P. Nafarrate, Tampico, Tamaulipas:

General Salvador Alvarado, Mérida, Yucatán:
General Joaquín Mucel, Campeche, Campeche:
General Jesús Agustín Castro, Oaxaca, Oaxaca,
General Heriberto Jara, Orizaba, Veracruz:
General Manuel M. Dieguez, Guadalajara, Jalisco:
Governor of the State of Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas:
General Angel Flores, Culiacan, Sinaloa:

We may not reach an agreement with the United States, and our situation is serious. Be ready.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 49).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez. Chihuahua, May 8th, 1916.

To the First Chief:

I have the honor to inform you that the propositions I shall submit tomorrow to the consideration of General Scott are as follows. Please send me immediately your approval or your objections: "General Scott officially declares that in view of the fact that the American forces forming the punitive expedition have defeated and dispersed the band of outlaws which attacked Columbus at daybreak of March 9th of this year, according to the official reports sent in by the Commander of the expedition, and therefore the only purpose held in view by the American Government to punish those who committed such outrages has been accomplished, said General Scott considers as unnecessary any further stay of the American army in Mexican territory and will now order it back to American territory." General Obregon declares: "That he has received instructions from the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army to proceed immediately to mobilize sufficient Mexican troops to reinforce the military garrisons of the State of Chihuahua, in order to make more effectual the pursuit of the small dispersed bands of outlaws which have succeeded in escaping up to the present, and that we will negotiate with the American military authorities an agreement by which platoons of forces belonging to both nations will be established along the boundary line of their respective territories, said forces being distributed in the places and in the way that way be deemed convenient, trying to create the best understanding among the Mexican and American commanders to achieve the most effectual co-operation of both for the defense and protection of the

border zone, and thus prevent any new outrages, while the Mexican and the United States Governments conclude the Treaty recently initiated for the reciprocal passing of troops and the pursuit of outlaws." If these propositions be accepted, an affidavit will then be executed in the following terms: "At Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, on the ninth day of the month of May, 1916, we, Major-General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the American Army, and General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy of the Mexican Republic, in behalf of our respective Government, being assembled at the Green Hall of the Customs Building; in view that the American Government has already given orders for the withdrawal of its troops from Mexican territory, and also that the Mexican Government has given instructions to reinforce the troops operating in that border region, for the purpose of carrying out a vigorous campaign against the bands of outlaws who have been lately disturbing the peace of this same region, we have agreed to give up the conferences we were holding, since they would have no further object now that the measures alluded to have been taken, and both chiefs signed these presents in testimony thereof." As these documents clearly explain, the transaction is based on the fact that the American Government orders the immediate withdrawal of its troops; it was not considered necessary to fix a certain time to get its forces back, but since there is no condition authorizing the American Government to delay their retirement, it is understood that the movement will take only as much time as strictly necessary. In this way we shall have achieved the object in view, leaving entirely free the diplomatic way to go on discussing the reciprocal passing of troops through our Foreign Offices. Respectfully.

General **ALVARO OBREGON**,

Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 50).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, May 8th, 1916.

First Chief, National Capitol:

As I announced to you, today at 5 p. m. I called personally on General Scott to tell him that my Government did not approve his Memorandum, because it did not define a time to finish the withdrawal of their troops and because the last chapter purported

a condition we are not ready to submit to, explaining to him that I had received your instructions to agree with him on the most convenient way to combine the establishment of military cantonments of both countries along the boundary line, so as to exercise a closer vigilance, in the best possible harmony, and thus prevent the organization of new bands of marauders, while our Governments conclude the treaty of reciprocity for the passing of troops of both nations. General Scott having insisted that we should sign the agreement, I answered him that if the American Government wanted to give a token of its good faith so much spoken of, it should not insist on the signing of an agreement which would not help to solve the difficulties we were then trying to prevent, but on the contrary, would create more troubles, simply because the occurrence of a new incident for which neither they nor we would be responsible, would yet authorize his troops, according to the Memorandum, to remain indefinitely in our country, and for this reason we should fix a certain time within which the American troops would have to quit the country. He answered me that they could not, by any means, accept a certain time, advancing as ever the idea that his Government was very anxious to withdraw from Mexico if an agreement was reached, and repeating once more that they could not fix any time. I stated to Scott that I would present a new project by which the long expected object would be achieved, which would essentially contain the Memorandum without the condition of the penult chapter. After a hot discussion of one hour and a half, Scott agreed that a new project should be drafted upon the basis which I had verbally expressed during the conferences and have it submitted to him. I am just drafting the project that I shall submit to Scott and which I shall previously submit to your consideration as though it were a new one, because when I will submit it to Scott I shall say it is just an initiative for the consideration of our respective Governments without his knowing that I have already your approval. The project will be ready in two more hours and shall wire it immediately. I request of you to order a Staff officer to wait at the telegraph station, that you may get my message immediately and send me your ratification or rectification this same evening, because I have promised Scott that I would present it early tomorrow. I beg to suggest the advisability to keep in secret the formation of this new project, because I shall present it to Scott as a mere initiative to be submitted to the consideration of our respective Governments, he not knowing that I am relying already on your approval. Respectfully.

GENERAL ALVARO OBREGON.

Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 51).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, May 8th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregon, Ciudad Juarez:

Your message dated today received. It is advisable that you postpone the presentation to General Scott of the alteration I shall make to the Memorandum, for we need to take our time. Do not believe that you are wasting it by reopening the conferences, because it is indubitable that General Scott will have the authorization of his Government to approve the Memorandum which has been inspired by the Government itself. Tomorrow I shall communicate with you in regard to the modifications I mean to make to the Memorandum, and if it be necessary I shall send a delegate with instructions, because the question is very delicate and we must manage it very carefully, so as not to set a historical precedent that might later on prove of fatal consequences for our country. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 52).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, May 9th, 1916.

Señor V. Carranza, Chapultepec:

I have the honor to inform you that I submitted to General Scott the project of declarations and of affidavit I sent you, and the separate propositions to formulate by common agreement a treaty on the distribution of troops along the border, according to the instructions you wired. We discussed these points for about two hours and General Scott did not accept the proposition made in the form of the declarations. The meeting was called off at 7 p. m. to be continued tomorrow. Scott said over and over that they were entirely ready to draw the troops from Mexico as soon as they see that we start sending forces to Chihuahua in order to prevent the bands they have pushed southward coming back to the border. He says they have not seen yet any formality or effectiveness on our part in the campaign carried on by us. I deem it indispensable to mobilize at least five thousand more men in this State. I am

addressing myself to General Treviño, asking him how many men of his division he can mobilize. Since the operations in the State of Morelos have been so successfully carried out, I believe that some troops of that region might be sent to the border. I judge it indispensable to make all efforts to bring up those forces. The mobilization of the troops now in Sonora is extremely difficult without the permission of the United States Government to take them across its territory. General Scott insists that any settlement we agree upon must have the character of a treaty. I expect your respectable instructions in this particular to be ready for tomorrow's conference. Respectfully.

GENERAL ALVARO OBREGON,

The Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 53).

TELEGRAM.

Chapultepec, May 9th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregón, Secretary of War and Navy, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua:

I was gladly informed of your project of affidavit to be executed in the following terms: "In Ciudad Juarez, on the 9th day of the month of May, 1916, we being assembled in the Salon Verde (Green Hall) of the Customs Building, Majors General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the American Army, and General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy of the Mexican Republic, in behalf of our respective governments, and considering that the Government of the United States of America has given orders to General Scott for the immediate withdrawal of his troops from Mexican territory, while the Mexican Government has given instructions to General Obregon to reinforce the troops operating in the border zone for the purpose of carrying out a vigorous campaign against the bands of outlaws that have been disturbing the order of that region, we have agreed to call off the conferences we were holding; since there would be no further object to pursue after the dispositions alluded to have been issued and started to be carried out by both chiefs, who signed these presents in witness thereof, etc." Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 54).

TELEGRAM.

Juarez, May 10th.

First Chief General Carranza, National Capitol:

After several conferences held with Generals Scott and Funston, I have arrived at a full realization of the fact that the United States Government, despite the enormous pressure being now exerted by the interventionists and other powerfully influential elements of this country, maintains itself firm in its intention to withdraw the American forces from our territory; but it only tries to prevent public opinion from accusing it of meekness, and the United States press from blaming it for having ordered the retirement of the troops in obedience to pressure or mandate of our Government. The point the American Government upholds is a mere question of dignity, and therefore it insists in concluding the affair of the conferences, leaving something written for its own justification. On the other hand, I am perfectly sure that the American troops were concentrated in San Antonio, a point 120 kilometers north from Parral, the southernmost place reached by them, and General Scott is perfectly willing to order immediately their withdrawal to Namiquipa, which is about 120 kilometers more to the north of San Antonio; and I am likewise certain that, despite the press daily trying to excite public opinion on account of the last happenings at Boquillas, this incident will not bring us any ulterior complications nor will it serve as an excuse for the American Government to send a new expedition to that zone, if the Memorandum in question is signed. I have made a few corrections to submit to General Scott with your previous approval. Therefore, I beg to submit to your considerations the following affidavit I shall propose to General Scott: "In Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on the... of the month of..... we, General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Mr. Juan Neftalí Amador, a lawyer, acting in this case as official interpreter to General Obregon; Major General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the American Army, and Major General Frederick Funston of the same Army, being assembled for the purpose of solving in the best possible way the situation prevailing along the western region of the State of Chihuahua in a satisfactory way for both countries, have arrived at the following conclusions: Whereas, the punitive expedition of American troops has destroyed and dispersed many of the bands and many of the elements of outlawry which committed the recent outrages in the American territory of Columbus, New Mexico, or has driven them far back to the interior of the Mexican Republic; and whereas the Constitutionalist Government declares to

the United States Government that the former is starting a vigorous pursuit of all the small bands of outlaws that might have escaped; having also in view the firm assurances given by the Constitutionalist Government that its forces have been augmented and reinforced in such a way that they will be ready to prevent any breach of the peace that might in any way endanger American territory; and whereas assurances have also been given that the Constitutionalist Government will continue with all expedition the pursuit, capture and destruction of the bands of outlaws still existing in the northern part of Mexico, and finally, in view of the good will shown by the Mexican Government by proposing to the American Government to have a military agreement for the distribution of troops of both countries along the frontier, in order to co-operate in the most effectual way to the destruction of the pernicious elements which may try to create difficulties between both countries: the United States Government has decided to gradually withdraw from Mexico the forces forming the punitive expedition, immediately commencing their retirement. In fact, the American Government has already withdrawn small detachments to an approximate distance of one hundred miles from the southernmost point they had arrived at, in order to supply in the most convenient way the expeditionary forces with provisions and forage, of which there is great scarcity in that part of Mexico. On the same account the United States Government has also ordered the general retirement of the American forces from San Antonio to Namiquipa. The Constitutionalist Government of Mexico will make a suitable distribution of those of its forces that may be necessary to prevent the possibility of new raids upon American territory from Mexico. The decision of the American Government to continue retiring its troops forming the punitive expedition from Mexico has been inspired by the belief that the Mexican Government is now in the possibility of preventing such new invasions to American territory, and will not omit any effort to that effect, and the American Government hopes not to see itself compelled to stop the withdrawal of its troops, making also the declaration that the late happenings at Boquillas do not alter its intentions along this line. The present parties, representing both Governments, express their satisfaction at the friendly settlement of the affairs discussed at this conference, and they believe that by this means the good relations existing between their countries will grow more solid." Having this very afternoon to confer again with Scott, I beg you to give me at once your instructions. Respectfully.

GENERAL ALVARO OBREGON,

Secretary of War and Navy.

MEMORANDUM of the conference held by General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War of the Mexican Republic, and Major-General Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and Major-General Frederick Funston, of the same Army, signed by all and sent to their respective Governments with the recommendation that it be approved: "In view of the fact that the forces of the United States Army forming the punitive expedition have destroyed or dispersed many of the elements which are in outlawry and which include the bandits who committed the recent outrages in American territory in and about Columbus, New Mexico, or have compelled them to escape far to the interior of the Mexican territory; and in view also of the fact that the Constitutionalist Government declares to the United States Government that the former for its part is carrying on an active campaign against the small bands or elements of outlawry which succeeded in escaping; furthermore, in view of the complete assurances given by the Constitutionalist Government that its forces are actually being increased and reinforced to such extent that they will be able to overcome and prevent any troubles that might arise in Mexico and which could in any way endanger the American territory; considering also the assurances given by the Constitutionalist Government that it will continue with all possible expediency the pursuit, capture or destruction of any elements of outlawry that may still exist or rise hereafter in the northern part of Mexico, the United States Government has decided to gradually withdraw the forces which form the punitive expedition in Mexico, commencing immediately their withdrawal. In fact, the American Government has already begun the retirement of small detachments to an approximate distance of one hundred miles from the southernmost point the expedition had reached, for the purpose of supplying the expeditionary forces in a satisfactory way with provisions and forage, which were rather scarce in that region of Mexico. The Constitutionalist Government of Mexico will make a suitable distribution of its forces as it may become necessary in order to avoid the possibility of any new invasion of the American territory from Mexico. The decision of the American Government to continue the gradual retirement of the troops forming the punitive expedition in Mexico has been inspired by the belief that the Mexican Government is now in condition to prevent the repetition of any invasion of American territory, as well as that said Government will not omit any effort to that end, and the withdrawal of the American forces will only be stopped if anything should happen in Mexico to

demonstrate that such belief had no foundation. The representatives of both Governments in these conferences express their satisfaction at the friendly settlement of the question discussed in their meeting, and they judge that this action will make more solid the good relations existing between their respective nations."

(Doc. No. 56).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters, Mexico, D. F., May 10th, 1916.

URGENT.

Señor Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassay, Washington, D. C.:

In the last conferences held between General Obregon and General Scott, the latter stated to the former that his troops were perfectly ready to go back into the United States as soon as our forces began to arrive at Chihuahua to prevent the bands of outlaws going back to the border. I have ordered troops to be immediately sent from the center of the country to that State. If the United States Government really intends to solve the pending question in all good faith instead of presenting obstacles, it should assist in solving the existing ones. It is more than one month ago that you requested of that Government the passing of our forces from Sonora to Chihuahua to guard the boundary line in this State, and up to now they have not answered you at all. The ammunition has also been embargoed without any justification, unless the intention of that Government be to declare war on us. Speak on these subjects to Secretary Lansing and explain to him that such measures may be construed as a proof of insincerity in the relations between that Government and our country. Greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 57).

Chapultepec, May 10th, 1916.

General Alvaron Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua:

In regard to your message of today respecting the Memorandum, the reasons I had not to admit it in its first form are still subsisting

since the changes made in the wording are not substantial. We must not lose courage nor allow ourselves to be dragged along by the impatience of the American delegates. We must realize in these moments that the American Government needs more urgently than we to get out of this embarrassing situation it has got into. The time which may elapse without a practical agreement being reached, does us no harm but benefit. A person is leaving here tomorrow for Washington, and his arrival there will improve our position. Therefore we must act very calmly and without rashness. On the other hand the American forces entered our territory without any previous agreement, basing their action only on the supposition that we might be in conformity with it. The American Government acted without our consent. The expedition has been fully conducted without consulting us, and it would not seem illogical that it should end by particular decision of the American Government without any agreement or consultation with us. This would be, in fact, the most proper and logical issue of it all, and therefore it is preferable to adopt the simple form of affidavit which you transmitted on the eve of day before yesterday, and which I returned. If you find General Scott too impatient, or you believe that it will be impossible to make him desist himself of the Memorandum, it would be convenient to deviate your attitude toward the concrete discussion of the arrangement for keeping troops along the border. This discussion will afford you a good occasion to learn better the real purposes of the other parties. You should concretely insist on the withdrawal of the American forces without any agreement at all, and treat preferentially on reaching an agreement with General Scott for the placing of troops along the river, in the form you were instructed some time ago. Hearty

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 58).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters, Ciudad Juarez, May 11th, 1916.

V. Carranza, Mexico:

I have the honor to inform you that the conference began at 10 o'clock, and there was a hot discussion in which a moment came when General Scott said to me that the American Government, far from withdrawing its troops, would order the sending of many more if his demands were not accepted, to which I answered that

I would not tolerate any condition to be imposed on us. Scott still demands that what we have proposed in the form of declarations be set up as conditions of a formal agreement which he says must be signed, and I refused to do it. The conference will adjourn at 2 p. m., when the negotiations will be almost concluded, to reopen again at 4 p. m. Respectfully,

ALVARO OBREGON,

Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 59).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters, National Capital, May 11th, 1916.

General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua:

Your code message of today at hand. I regret the incident that occurred at the conference this morning, but whatever the consequences may be you must accept absolutely nothing against the decorum of the Nation and against yourself. We have displayed enough prudence to avoid a conflict. If General Scott calls off the conferences, do not insist on reopening them. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 60).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, May 11th, 1916.

Señor Venustiano Carranza, Mexico, D. F.:

I have the honor to inform you that the conferences were renewed at 4 p. m. and lasted for two hours, at the end of which we decided to call off our meetings and agreed to make the following declarations:

"That after various conferences carried out with remarkable courtesy and the best wishes, and during which mutual views were exchange between us and good information upon the military con-

ditions of the border was gathered, the undersigned agreed to close the conferences and communicate it to their Governments that they may conclude the matter by means of their respective foreign offices; that the closing of these conferences does not mean in any way the rupture of the good friendly relations existing between the delegates to the conferences nor between their respective Governments."

Upon my arrival at that Capital, which I am leaving for this evening, I shall have the honor to submit to you a fuller report on the subjects discussed.

Respectfully yours,

ALVARO OBREGON,

The Secretary of War and Navy.

(Doc. No. 61).

REPORT.

War and Navy Department.—No. 87-7.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the commission you were pleased to give me to go to Ciudad Juarez and discuss with Mayor General Hugh L. Scott, in behalf of the Government over which you so worthily preside, regarding the withdrawal of the American forces, which, commanded by General Pershing, entered through Columbus into our territory and have since remained in the State of Chihuahua.

In due obedience of the orders you gave me, on the 23d of April at 11 p. m., I left this Capital and journeyed without interruption up to Ciudad Juarez, where I arrived on the 28th of the same month. General Jacinto B. Treviño, Chief of the Northeast Army Corps, joined me at Torreon, and General Luis Gutierrez, Chief Commander of the military operations in Chihuahua, and Colonel Ignacio Enriquez, Governor of the same, joined me at Chihuahua City.

A few moments after my arrival at Ciudad Juarez, 9:30 a. m., the Honorable United States Consul in that City, Thomas D. Edwards, called on me expressing to have received a telegram from General Scott advising that he was on his journey to El Paso, requested him to bring me his salutations and to announce his visit of courtesy for the afternoon of that very day upon his arrival at El Paso.

At 5 p. m. there arrived at Ciudad Juarez Messrs. Generals Hugh L. Scott and Frederick Funston, and I was advised that their visit would take effect at 7 p. m.

Then, I appointed General Gabriel Gavira and Mr. Andres G.

García, the former Military Commander of Ciudad Juarez and the latter Consul for Mexico in El Paso, to receive Generals Scott and Funston at the international bridge and to escort them to the Green Hall of the Custom House, where I would wait for them accompanied by Generals Treviño and Gutierrez and other officers.

At 7 p. m. General Scott was shown in, accompanied by General Funston and some officers of their respective Staffs. The visit lasted for more than half an hour and was very cordial. On his departure I told General Scott that the next day at 10 a. m. I would be very glad to pay him his visit.

At said hour on the 29th of April I went to El Paso accompanied by the same Mexican officers and Mr. Baldomero Aldana, General Agent of the Department of War, commissioned to purchase war material in the United States, who acted as my interpreter. At the international bridge we were received by General Bell, Commander of the American line, who took us to General Scott's special car. There we were received by the latter, General Funston and the members of their Staff. This visit, as the one they made to us, lasted for over half an hour and was also very cordial. At the moment of my departure I said to General Scott that I would commission General Treviño and Consul Garcia to call on him after a while to agree with him as to the hour and place when we would start our conferences. General Scott asked me whether all the high officers who had been with me during our mutual visits of courtesy were to take part in the meetings, to which I answered that they would not, explaining that only General Treviño would accompany me, and that my desire had been to introduce to him and to General Funston said officers, because General Gutierrez was Commander of the Chihuahua forces, while General Gavira commanded the garrison of Ciudad Juarez, and therefore I wanted them to meet in order to facilitate the future relations between the Mexican and the American army officers along the border.

The commissioners, Messrs. General Treviño and Consul Garcia, informed me, after holding a conference with General Scott, that he had agreed to open the conferences in Ciudad Juarez, fixing the afternoon of that same day, at 5 o'clock, at the Green Hall of the Custom House to hold the first meeting.

I again commissioned General Gavira and Consul Garcia to receive General Scott at the international bridge on that afternoon. This gentleman appeared at 5 p. m., accompanied by General Funston and his interpreter. For our part General Treviño, Consul Garcia, who acted as my interpreter, and myself were waiting for him.

Taking in consideration that the American Government had made the invitation to hold such conferences I deemed it opportune to let General Scott speak first to initiate our discussions. He started by expressing his wish to reach an agreement as to the

practical form of co-operation between our troops and the American forces to make their action more effectual, indicating that the success of his soldiers would have been greater with a frank co-operation on our part in the campaign of Chihuahua. I then informed him that I had been instructed by my Government to ask for the immediate withdrawal of the American troops from our territory, supporting my statement with all arguments I deemed opportune and forceful to convince him that there was no possible justification for the continued stay of American troops in our territory, and upholding that our Government was perfectly able to subdue the small bands of marauders dispersed in the range of mountains of the State of Chihuahua. General Scott insisted several times that we should agree as to the co-operation of our forces in order that the American troops might continue their operations against Villa bands within our territory. After a discussion of over an hour upon these subjects I expressed to General Scott that I had been instructed by my Government to deal only with the withdrawal of the American forces from our territory. This put an end to our conferences of that day, at 7 p. m., General Scott informing me that he was going to report to his Government and upon receiving new instructions he would advise me to hold a second conference and go on discussing the subject. It is worth noting that during this first meeting, despite the difference of the purpose each of us held in view, all the parties showed full equanimity, with the only exception of Consul Garcia, who seemed to be somewhat excited.

On the afternoon of the following day, May 1st, Mr. A. J. McQuatters asked to see me and I received him on board my car "Siquisiva." He called accompanied by his interpreter. The conversation I had with Mr. McQuatters dealt with the situation prevailing between Mexico and the United States, and he said he was very much interested in a happy solution of the case.

During our talk I made a few remarks regarding the situation, and Mr. McQuatters asked my permission to communicate to General Scott his impressions gathered during our interview, to which I readily acceded, expressing that I could express my opinion with just the same frankness to General Scott himself if it were not in an official conference. For this reason Mr. McQuatters entreated me to tell him if I would be willing to hold a private chat with General Scott in that gentleman's quarters at the Hotel Paso del Norte, to which I answered that it would please me very much to exchange views with the General. Mr. McQuatters retired late that night and on the following day he sent me a written note inviting me to call on him at 12 m. that same day, advising that upon the same hour General Scott would also be there, as he had accepted the invitation Mr. McQuatters had made him.

At the said hour I went to the Hotel Paso del Norte, where I was received by Mr. McQuatters and his interpreter, and a few

minutes later General Scott arrived. We engaged ourselves at once in a conversation, each expressing with all frankness his opinion regarding the international situation, it being very noticeable that there was on both sides the same goodwill to find a solution to the difficulties which gave origin to the conferences at Juarez. Our talk continued for twelve hours, and at the end of a series of propositions and counter-propositions offered, we arrived at the point of designing the project of Memorandum for the withdrawal of the American troops, agreeing to submit it to the consideration of our respective governments. Said project I transmitted to you by wire right after the interview, which is as follows:

"In view of the fact that the American punitive expeditionary forces have destroyed or dispersed many of the lawless bandits who committed the recent outrage upon American territory at and near Columbus, New Mexico, or have driven them far into the interior of the Republic of Mexico.

"And in view of the further fact that the Constitutionalist Government declared to the United States Government that they are carrying on a vigorous pursuit of such small numbers of bandits and lawless elements as may have escaped.

"And in view further of the full assurances of the Constitutionalist Government that their forces are, at the present time, being augmented and strengthened to such an extent that they will be able to prevent any disorders occurring in Mexico that would in any way endanger American territory.

"And in view of the further assurances of the Constitutionalist Government that they will continue to diligently pursue, capture or destroy any lawless bands or bandits that may still exist or hereafter exist in the Northern part of Mexico;

"The Government of the United States decides to gradually withdraw the forces of the punitive expedition from Mexico, commencing the withdrawal immediately. In fact, the American Government has already withdrawn small bodies of troops for a distance of approximately one hundred miles from the most southerly point penetrated by them, in order to more conveniently supply the expeditionary forces with food and forage, which are almost lacking in that particular part of Mexico.

"The Constitutionalist Government of Mexico will make proper distribution of such of its forces as may be necessary to prevent the possibility of invasion of American territory from Mexico.

"The decision of the American Government to continue the gradual withdrawal of the troops of the punitive expedition from Mexico was inspired by the belief that the Mexican Government is now in a position, and will omit no effort, to prevent the recurrences of invasion of American territory, and the completion of the withdrawal of American troops will only be prevented by occurrences

arising in Mexico tending to prove that such belief was wrongly founded.

"The conferees representing both Governments express satisfaction at the friendly settlement of the question discussed at the conference, and believe that this will solidify the good relations existing between their respective Governments."

THIRD DAY.

During this day no conference was held, and I received various messages from you requesting more data on the situation along the border and making some objections to several points of the Memorandum, which you deemed inconvenient. On this account I held a conference with you over the wire.

Dr. Juan Naftali Amador arrived at Ciudad Juarez at 5 p. m. and right away called on me to transmit the instructions he received from you and which were contained in a Memorandum Mr. Amador handed to me.

FOURTH DAY.

Neither did we hold a conference this day, for I was waiting your resolution on the proposed Memorandum.

At 2 p. m. General Scott announced to me that he had a business matter to talk over with me privately, asking me to fix the hour when I could receive his call at my car "Siquisiva," and expressing his wish to have me receive him in an unofficial manner. I answered him that with great pleasure would I receive him whenever he were pleased to call, and a few minutes later he called accompanied by one of the members of his Staff, General Scott appearing at the car unescorted. Then he presented to me a telegram he had just receive from his Government, which he personally translated to me. I expressed to General Scott that even though I understood perfectly well his translation, since the matter in question was rather delicate I wished him to allow me to call an interpreter of all my trust who was at that moment in one of the cabinets of my car, to which General Scott gladly submitted, and then I called Mr. Rafael Gavilondo, a well known cattle dealer, actually a resident of Douglas, who repeated the translation of the message, where the American Government gave instructions to General Scott to ask me personally whether Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, recently appointed by the First Chieftainship under your worthy charge as Ambassador from Mexico to the American Government, was persona grata to me and whether I trusted him.

I answered General Scott that although I was not supposed to answer a question of that sort, since my capacity was of a merely military character in the Constitutionalist Government, I found no objection to declaring that Mr. Arredondo, in my

opinion, was a very honorable man in every respect and that his appointment for the Embassy seemed to me the most proper. In the same telegram the American Government instructed General Scott to ask me whether Mr. Fletcher, who had been appointed to represent the United States as Ambassador to Mexico, was persona grata to me. My reply to this question was that I had not the honor to know Mr. Fletcher, but that I was well informed about him; that it was certain that since he occupied such a high position in his Government he was a gentlemen and of great endowments. After exchanging these questions and replies General Scott took leave.

On that same day and obeying your instructions I addressed myself to General Scott requesting him to let me have a copy of the report furnished by General Pershing about the military operations carried out in Chihuahua against the Villa marauders. General Scott showed a very good disposition towards my request, and the next day he was kind enough to send me such report through Consul Garcia. I transmitted its text to you immediately by wire.

FIFTH DAY.

Neither did we hold conferences this day.

Mr. Orson P. Brown, Mormon Bishop of the Dublan and Juarez Colonies, and a member of the society known as "Intelligence Service," called at the car "Celaya" where my office was located, expressing that a commission of bankers had come from New York for no other purpose but to talk with me over some matters of importance, and wished to have an interview with me; to which I answered that I would receive them at any time they were pleased to call. Said Commission made a call on that very day, at 3:30 p. m., and I received them in the special car "502," and they started at once to talk their business after showing telegrams from the people they represented, Messrs. Thomas D. Ryan & Co., of New York, wherein the commissioners were told that President Wilson had given his consent to that firm to lend the Mexican Government any amount of money we might need to cover the national expenditures and our needs; that our Government could determine the amount of the loan, and the interest to be paid would be a mere detail, setting it as low as we could pay it; the capital point constituting the only condition to make the loan would be that I should sign the request that the obligation be contracted. I answered the commissioners that I had been entrusted only with a commission of a purely military character and that the First Chieftainship did not allow me to negotiate loans, not even within the National Territory. They insisted on their pro-

position, saying that since I was the strongest man in Mexico they could not accept the signature of any other official, and repeated that the amount and the interest would be determined by ourselves. I then said that I regretted the mistake they made by considering me the strongest man in Mexico, declaring that the little power I could represent in my country was subordinated to the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Government, the only authority empowered to negotiate such kind of obligations, and that I also lamented that they should have mistaken the channel to make their offer to our Government, indicating that they should do it through the Financial Department, which was under charge of Mr. Luis Cabrera. I offered them at the same time my services to make Mr. Cabrera know the propositions they would want to make. My last reply to convince them that they would not achieve their purpose, made Mr. Brown utter the following remark: "I told them that their trip was useless; that they would not accomplish anything, because you people are very closely united and you would never act without Mr. Carranza's consent." Thus ended our interview, and the Commission as well as its introducer, Mr. Brown, left.

SIXTH DAY.

General Scott notified me that he had received instructions from his Government and that therefore he was now able to hold a new conference with me, to which I replied that as soon as I received news from mine I would advise him on it to effect the conference.

SEVENTH DAY.

Having been informed this day of your messages of yesterday, which were deciphered on the previous eve, I advised General Scott that I had already received instructions for the new conference, and we agreed to get together at 11 a. m. in the Immigration Building on the international bridge. Thus we did and General Scott informed me that he had succeeded at once in having his Government accept the Memorandum, and he asked your resolution. According to the instructions contained in your said messages, I expressed to General Scott that I had been ordered to tell him that my Government did not accept the Memorandum unless certain changes were made to the last clause, and General Scott remarked that the instructions received from his Government were decisively to have our Government accept the Memorandum such as had been presented or to have it wholly rejected. Since before starting the discussion of this conference General Scott and I had been commenting in a superficial manner on the regretful incident

just occurred in the Big Bend on account of a new assault made by Mexican bandits to that American town; my final answer to General Scott was that the Memorandum stipulating that any new occurrence would prevent the completion of the withdrawal of the American forces from our territory and the incident of the Big Bend having occurred, the signing of the Memorandum would imply our approval to the staying of such troops in our country. Then General Scott said to me that even though this new happening had been lamentable and had stirred public opinion in the United States, it would not be taken in consideration by his Government, and that this would be one proof of its good disposition toward facilitating the solution of the matter in question. I then expressed to General Scott my intention to hold with you a conference over the wire to inform you with all details of the new incident of the Big Bend and get from you new instructions or the confirmation of the old ones. We parted then, and I went right straight to the telegraph station, wherefrom I communicated to you my impressions in order that you might ratify or alter the instructions given me on the previous evening.

EIGHTH DAY.

On the morning of this day I received the ratification of the instructions you had given me already to reject in full the project of Memorandum, and I communicated to General Scott at once that we might continue our conferences at 5 p. m. of that same day in his special car.

At the hour fixed we got together, Mr. Amador accompanying me as official interpreter. I began expressing to General Scott that the Memorandum was not acceptable to my Government. He expressed his regret at that determination and made repeated declarations, as in previous interviews, that his Government had the best wishes to withdraw its troops from our territory, and that to use the corresponding orders it was only expected that our Government would mobilize a sufficient number of troops to cover the border with our soldiers while the American retired, so as to prevent new raids of bandits upon American territory. I expressed to General Scott that I had received instructions from you to propose the making of a project for the establishment by both governments of military cantonments along the boundary line and with the respective territory of each for a mutual co-operation in the vigilance of the border, so as to make it more effectual and thus to prevent the organization of new bands of marauders who ravage the frontier towns. General Scott having insisted that we should sign an agreement establishing the conditions for the withdrawal of the American troops from our country, I answered him that if the American Government was desirous to show the

good faith it spoke so much of, it should not insist in celebrating an agreement which would not help to solve the difficulties we were in front of, but on the contrary, would create new and greater difficulties, since just by the occurrence of a new incident menacing the order along the border, for which neither we nor the Americans would be responsible, according to the proposed Memorandum they would be empowered to remain indefinitely within our territory; that we should fix a term for the complete withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico. He replied to this that he could not accept such condition, expressing once more that his Government was very anxious to withdraw its troops from our territory if an agreement was reached. I said to General Scott that I could submit a new project wherein the desired purpose would be accomplished and the contents of the Memorandum would be essentially embodied. After a discussion of about an hour and a half General Scott accepted that I make the project in the form I indicated to him during our conference and presented it to him for his consideration. This ended our conference at 7 p. m.

NINTH DAY.

We held a new conference on this day, and I began by expressing to General Scott that I had just been informed that a column of American forces had gone over into Mexican territory through Boquillas, and General Scott replied that such report could not be true because no orders had been given to that effect, adding that he was absolutely sure that the new expedition spoken of would not take place. I reminded General Scott that a conflict would be unavoidable if new American troops should enter our territory. Right then I presented to General Scott the new project of declarations together with the project for the establishment of military cantonments along the boundary line of both countries, and after a two-hour discussion General Scott flatly refused to accept the proposition of the declarations regarding the withdrawal of the American forces. The conference was suspended at 7 p. m. to continue the next day.

TENTH DAY.

I devoted this day exclusively to holding a conference with you over the wire, to get new instructions in view of the results of my last interview with General Scott on the previous day.

ELEVENTH DAY.

At ten o'clock in the morning, Mr. Amador acting as official interpreter, a new conference was commenced on board of General

Scott's special car. Once we engaged ourselves in the discussion, General Scott seemed to be nervous and impatient at not arriving at any result as to the agreement he had proposed, which he wanted me to sign. He went so far as telling me, rather excitedly, that instead of withdrawing the troops actually in our territory, his Government would order at once the mobilization of many more forces to the border if we did not accept his conditions, and I replied to this that for no reason would we tolerate any imposition. This excited General Scott even more, and he asserted: "My Government shall immediately order the mobilization of one hundred and fifty thousand or two hundred thousand men upon Mexico." General Funston, who had remained silent, joined in the conversation and said: "Of course, those troops General Scott speaks of would be to keep the border only and not to enter Mexican territory." General Scott, after a moment of reflection, affirmed what Funston had said, declaring, somewhat calmed, that indeed the troops would come to keep the border and would not go into Mexican territory. I called General Scott's attention to the uselessness of his excitement, couching my speech in the following words: "General Scott, Sir, I hope we shall be sufficiently serene and discreet as to discuss this matter with the equanimity and good judgment it demands, and even though we may reach the breaking point we may still shake hands on the middle of the international bridge to march forthwith each of us to place himself at the head of his respective army." General Scott answered very amiably, saying that he earnestly wished that we should maintain our friendship even through any incidents. At 12 o'clock the conference was suspended, and General Scott insisted that we should stay for lunch with him, and I declined his invitation, excusing myself the best I could, and took leave, agreeing with him as to the reopening of our conference at 4 p. m. that day.

At this hour I arrived at General Scott's car accompanied by Mr. Amador, and we immediately commenced our conference, which lasted two hours and during which I expressed to General Scott, in view that we could not reach any agreement, that since he had often repeated his declaration that his Government would withdraw its troops from our territory as soon as there were sufficient forces in Chihuahua to fight the rebels and protect the border, I had ordered General Treviño to mobilize at once ten thousand men of his Division to the State of Chihuahua, and we expected that upon the arrival of such troops the American Government would order the withdrawal of its forces. General Scott asked me to take back the petition I had made to have the American troops go out of the country and I refused to do it, expressing that I could not take back my demand since it was the only object of my trip to Ciudad Juarez and the only action I was empowered by my Government to take, adding that I would never perform any act which were

detrimental to the dignity of my country. Then we declared our conferences ended, and General Scott and I agreed to make declarations to the press regarding the cordiality of our friendly relations, so as to prevent the press from further stirring the public, so as to leave more expeditious the way for our Government to go on discussing the question through the diplomatic channels. Said declarations, signed by General Scott and myself, were as follows:

"After several conferences, held with marked courtesy and good-will, in which views were exchanged and information gathered regarding the military situation along the border, it was agreed by the undersigned to suspend the conferences and report to their respective Governments so as to be able to go on discussing the case through their diplomatic agents. The fact of giving up these conferences does not purport by any means the rupture of the good friendly relations existing between the conferees and between their respective Governments."

NOTE.—With reference to the telegram I received from you dated May 7th, regarding the probability of the American Government ordering the sending of a new expedition on account of the raid made by Mexican bandits to the American garrison at Big Bend, and wherein you said to me: "Make it known to General Scott that any American forces coming over the boundary line without an agreement having been previously reached between both Governments for the reciprocal sending of troops, shall be considered as an invading force and I will order it to be fought," I must say that I judged it out of time to give such warning, since, as I said in the part of this report relating to the conference of the 7th, General Scott gave to me then full assurances that his Government would not take in consideration the incident of Big Bend in order to facilitate the settlement of the original question we were discussing, and later on, in the conference we held on the 9th, when I communicated to General Scott the news I had received to the effect that a column of American forces had gone across the line into our territory through Boquillas, he gave me repeated assurances that it was devoid of truth and that no new expedition would be sent across; it was at that time when I found a good opportunity to express that "a conflict would be unavoidable in case that such forces were really sent across into our country."

Once ended, as I express, the commission you so kindly entrusted me with, I started my trip back from Juarez to this Capital at 11 p. m. of May 11th.

Please accept the assurances of my highest and most respectful consideration and personal regard. Constitution and Reforms. Mexico June 27th, 1916.

(Signed) A. Obregon, General, Secretary of War.—Addressed to Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power.

(Doc. No. 62).

TELEGRAM.

General Headquarters, Mexico, D. F., May 18th, 1916.

General Alfredo Ricaut, Matamoros, Tamaulipas;

General Reynaldo Garza, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas:

If American forces should come across border-line into our territory through any point of the line under your charge, you shall order your men to fight them immediately.

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 63).

Mexico, D. F., May 22d, 1916.

Mr. Secretary:

I have instructions from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, to address Your Excellency the following note:

1.—The Mexican Government has just received information to the effect that a detachment of American forces crossed the boundary line and entered the Mexican Territory, being actually located at the place called El Pino, some sixty miles south of the border.

The passing of these troops, again effected without the consent of the Mexican Government, endangers very seriously the harmony and good relations that should exist between the United States Government and the Mexican Government.

This Government has to consider this act as a violation of Mexico's sovereignty, and therefore it solicits very urgently of the Government at Washington to consider the case with all care in order to define once for all the policy to be followed in regard to the Mexican Nation.

In order to be able to establish with all clearness the basis for the request purported in this note, it is necessary to review in all their details the happenings occurred up to this minute.

2.—On account of the raid made on Columbus, New Mexico, by a band under Francisco Villa, on the 9th of March this year, the Mexican Government sincerely regretting the incident, and wishing

to extend an effectual protection to the border, expressed its desire that the United States and the Mexican Governments should make an agreement for the pursuit of bandits. Said proposition was made by the Mexican Government, basing its action upon the precedent of similar conditions which prevailed in the years 1880 to 1884, and solicited, in short, permission for the Mexican forces to go into American territory for the pursuit of bandits, under the condition of reciprocity to be granted to the United States forces to enter the Mexican territory if the case of Columbus should occur at any other point on the boundary line.

As a result of this proposition made in the Mexican note of March 10th, the United States Government, through error or rashness, thought that it was sufficient with the good disposition shown by the Mexican Government to consider itself authorized to send troops across the border, and then, without waiting until a formal agreement was reached on the matter, that Government ordered a body of American forces to enter the Mexican territory in pursuit of Villa and his band.

3.—The American Government made on this account emphatic declarations, assuring the Mexican Government that it acted in all good faith and declaring that its only purpose in sending troops across the border was to pursue and capture or destroy the Villa band which had assaulted Columbus; that this act did not purport an invasion of our territory nor the intention to disregard our sovereignty, and that as soon as the practical objects in view were achieved the American troops would retire from the Mexican territory.

4.—The Mexican Government had no knowledge of the fact that the American troops had crossed the boundary line until the 17th of March, when private reports came from El Paso unofficially informing the Mexican Government of the American troops being in Mexican territory. This Government then addressed a note to the American Government, announcing that since the terms and conditions of the agreement to be formally made between the two countries for the passing of troops had not been defined as yet, the American Government could not consider itself empowered to send an expedition.

The Washington Government explained the sending of that expedition by saying that it regretted that there should have been a misinterpretation of the Mexican Government's attitude in regard to the passing of troops across our border for the pursuit of Villa, but that this action had been taken with the understanding that the previous exchange of messages implied a full consent on the part of the Mexican Government, no further formalities being necessary.

The United States Government explained also its attitude by invoking the necessity of swift action, and declared itself to be

ready to accept any suggestions the Mexican Government might wish to make regarding the terms of a definitive agreement to cover the operations of the troops of either country in the other's territory.

5.—Both governments prepared themselves for the discussion of the terms of an agreement according to which the reciprocal passing of troops would be effected, two projects of the Mexican Government and two counter projects of the United States Government being exchanged.

In the discussion of the agreement the Mexican Government constantly insisted that said mutual concession should be limited in regard to the zone of operations of the troops in foreign territory, the time these troops could remain in it, the number of soldiers forming such expedition and the kind of arms they could take with them. The United States Government rejected these limitations, and when it finally accepted them in part in the last project presented by Mexico, the American Government declared, however, that even consenting to signing the agreement, it should not be applied to the Columbus expedition.

6.—This attitude of the United States Government compelled Mexico to write its note of April 12th, in which, abandoning the discussion of the agreement, since it would not be applied to the Columbus case, this Administration demanded of the American Government to withdraw its troops, inasmuch as their stay was not authorized by an agreement and the expedition had no further purpose, since the Villa band had been dispersed and reduced to impotence.

7.—While the American Government did not answer said note of April 12th, nor proceed to retire its troops, it was found convenient that military chiefs of both countries should meet at a certain point of the border to discuss the military aspect of the situation and endeavor to reach in this way a satisfactory solution, which so far as Mexico was concerned, would only consist in the withdrawal of the American troops from our territory.

To this effect met at Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Generals Hugh L. Scott and Frederick Funston, in behalf of the American Government, and the Secretary of War and Navy, General Alvaro Obregon, representing the Mexican Government, who held a series of conferences in the midst of the frankest cordiality. In these conferences ample explanations and useful reports were exchanged among the delegates upon the military situation of the border.

As a result of these conferences a Memorandum was submitted to the consideration of the Governments at Washington and Mexico, according to which General Scott declared that the destruction and dispersion of the Villa band had been achieved and therefore the American Government decided to start withdrawing its troops, with the understanding that the Mexican Government promised

to guard the border in an effectual manner against new raids like that of Columbus.

8.—The Mexican Government refused its approval to such an agreement, because it also declared that the American Government could stop withdrawing its troops if any other incident should spring up to demonstrate that the belief of the Government at Washington in the capability of the Mexican authorities to guard the border lacked foundation.

The Mexican Government could not accept this suspensive condition, because the evacuation of its territory is a matter entirely belonging to the sovereignty of the country and in no case could be subject to the judgment of the American Government, while on the other hand it was considered as very probable that a new incident might occur, which would have given the appearance of the indefinite stay of the American troops in Mexican territory being lawful.

9.—Generals Scott, Funston and Obregon were still discussing this point, when on the fifth of May a band of outlaws assaulted the American garrison of Glenn Springs, on the American side, then crossing the line to get back into Mexico territory through Boquillas.

10.—On this account, and fearing that the United States Government would prepare to send new troops into Mexico, this Administration instructed General Obregon to notify the American authorities that we would not allow the passing of American soldiers into Mexico because of the new incident, and that orders had already been given to all the military commanders along the border not to consent to it.

11.—As soon as the attitude of the Mexican Government was known, Generals Scott and Funston assured General Obregon that no move of the American troops had been ordered toward the frontier as a result of the Boquillas outrages, nor would any more American soldiers be sent into our territory.

This statement, personally made by Generals Scott and Funston to General Obregon at the time of calling off the conferences, was later on gainsaid in a private conversation General Scott had with Juan Neftalí Amador, a lawyer, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who had had occasion to take part in the conferences between the Mexican and American military chiefs.

12.—On account of the same incident of Glenn Springs or Boquillas, wishing to prevent the several bands of outlaws which were organized and armed near the border, from repeating their raids, and also for the purpose of arranging a practical military co-operation between the American and the Mexican forces, this Government suggested through its representative General Obregon to the United States representatives, Generals Scott and Funston, the desirability of acting in full accord to carry out a plan of

military cantonments along the border, so as to make more effectual the vigilance of the whole region, and thus avoid so far as possible the outrages of those bands. The Mexican Government demonstrated in this manner not only its good faith and good wishes, but also its eager willingness to obtain a real co-operation with the United States Government to prevent new causes of friction between the two countries.

This plan of mutual intelligence for the establishment of cantonments of American and Mexican forces in our respective territories along the border, was proposed as a means to avoid immediately any new difficulty, and always intending to conclude later on a formal agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops, while abnormal conditions prevail in our territory.

13.—The conferences between Generals Scott, Funston and Obregon were called off on the 11th of May without any agreement being reached in regard to the unconditional retirement of the American troops. General Scott insisted on the signing of the Memorandum for the conditional retirement of the American forces, but he failed to take in consideration the plan proposed by the Mexican Government for the protection of the frontier by means of cantonments along the line.

Under these conditions it was up to the governments at Washington and Mexico to endeavor to reach a conclusion of the arrangements initiated at the conferences of Ciudad Juarez and El Paso. Up to this moment no complication of any kind had arisen on account of the Boquillas incident, and all the assurances given by Generals Scott and Funston led to the supposition that this incident would not bring forth any new difficulties.

14.—However, the Mexican Government has just received news to the effect that four hundred men of the 8th Regiment of the American Army are in Mexican territory, having crossed the boundary line somewhere around Boquillas, approximately between the 10th and the 11th of May, and they are at present near a place called "El Pino," some sixty miles south of the border. This fact came to the knowledge of the Mexican authorities because the very commander of the American troops which crossed the border addressed himself to the Mexican military commander at Esmeralda, in Sierra Mojada, in a note where he announced that he had passed the boundary line in hot pursuit of a band of marauders which had assaulted Glenn Springs, by virtue of an existing agreement between the American and the Mexican Governments for the reciprocal passing of troops, and with the full consent of the Mexican Consular representative at Del Rio, Texas, to whom said commander was said to have given advice of the expedition.

15.—The Mexican Government cannot admit that the American Government could possibly make the same mistake a second time by ordering the passing of troops across the border into Mex-

ican territory without the consent of the Mexican Government. Neither does it understand how a commander of United States forces can enter Mexican territory without the proper authorization from his superiors, merely believing that the consent for crossing the border could be obtained from a Consular Agent.

The explanation given by the American Government regarding the passing of troops at Columbus has never been satisfactory to the Mexican Government; but the new invasion of our territory is no more an isolated fact, and it comes to convince the Mexican Government that the case means something more than a simple error.

16.—This last action of the American forces creates new complications for the Mexican Government, making even more remote the probability of finding a satisfactory solution and making even more difficult the international situation between both countries.

The Mexican Government cannot consider this last incident except as an invasion of our territory made by American forces against the express will of the Mexican Government, and it is its duty to ask, as it hereby does, of the American Government, to order immediately the withdrawal of those new forces, as well as to refrain itself in the future from sending any other expeditions of a similar character.

17.—The Mexican Government realizes the obligation incumbent upon it of guarding the frontier; but this obligation is not exclusively its own, and it is hoped that the American Government, on whom such obligations is also incumbent, will know how to appreciate the material difficulties met in accomplishing it, since the very American troops, despite their number and despite the fact that they have not their attention distracted by other military operations, are under the physical impossibility of protecting the frontier region on the American side in an effectual manner.

The Mexican Government has made all the efforts it could to protect the border without neglecting other matters, and the considerable task of pacification it has to carry on in the rest of the country, and the American Government ought to understand that the lamentable raids on American territory by irresponsible bands of outlaws could happen now and then. This is a matter of pecuniary indemnity and a reason to try a combined defense, but never a cause for the American military authorities to invade the national territory.

The raid of armed bands in American territory is a lamentable occurrence indeed, but one for which the Mexican Government cannot possibly be held responsible, since it does all that lies in its power to prevent such outrages, whereas the passing of regular American troops into Mexican territory, against the express will of the Mexican Government, does certainly constitute an act for which the American Government is truly responsible.

18.—The Mexican Government, therefore, believes that the

occasion has arrived when it should insist with the American Government on the immediate withdrawal of the new expedition of Boquillas and its refraining itself from sending again any new expeditions. At all events, the Mexican Government, after having clearly expressed its inconformity with the coming of new American troops into Mexican territory, has to consider this act as an invasion of its territory, and consequently it will see itself in the position of assuming a defensive attitude against any American troops that may be sent across the border.

19.—As to the troops now operating in the State of Chihuahua on account of the Columbus incident, the Mexican Government sees itself under the necessity of insisting on their withdrawal.

The Mexican Government knows that upon refusal of the American Government to withdraw such forces nothing will be left to it but to resort to arms for the defense of its territory, but it understands at the same time that it is its duty to avoid, in so far as it is possible, an armed conflict between both countries; and, basing its actions on Article 21 of the Treaty of February 2d, 1848, said Mexican Government is willing to resort to all means of a peaceful nature to find a solution to the international conflict between both countries.

20.—The Mexican Government thinks it necessary to avail of this opportunity to ask of the American Government a more categorical definition of its true intentions towards Mexico. In this regard it hopes that, while expressing itself with all frankness, its words be not taken as purporting the desire to wound the susceptibility of the American Government, but the Mexican Government sees itself compelled to put aside diplomatic euphemisms in order to express its ideas with all clearness. If in the arguments afterward advanced, the Mexican Government uses the uttermost frankness, it is simply because it deems it its duty to make known the Mexican viewpoint to the mind of the United States Government and the American people, with perfectly clear words.

21.—The American Government has been for a long time making protests of friendship to the Latin-American countries, and it has availed itself of all possible means to convince them that said Government wishes to respect their sovereignty.

Especially as regards to Mexico, the American Government has declared on many several occasions that it does not intend to meddle in any way in Mexico's domestic matters and that it wishes to leave the country free to solve its own difficult problems of political and social transformation.

Still recently and on account of the Columbus expedition, the American Government, through the President, made declarations to the effect that it did not intend to intervene in Mexican matters nor to invade the country; that it does not covet one inch of its

territory and that in no case shall the United States make any attempt against Mexico's sovereignty.

The Washington Government and its representatives at the border have explicitly declared also that it is not the intention of the American Government to declare war on Mexico nor have an armed conflict with her. In short, everything, judging by the official declarations being made at Washington, would make us believe that there is a real desire on the part of the American Government and the people of the United States not to enter in a war with Mexico.

22.—Nevertheless, the Mexican Government is sorry to remark that the actions of the American military authorities are in absolute opposition to the former declarations, and it finds itself, therefore, under the necessity of having to appeal to the President, the State Department, the Senate and the people of the United States, to define once for all what is the real political policy of the United States in regard to Mexico.

23.—It is likewise necessary that on this account the United States define in a precise way its purposes toward Mexico, that the other Latin-American nations may also judge of their sincerity and may consequently appreciate at their real value the expressions of friendship and fraternity that long since the United States have been making them.

24.—The American Government declared by the words of the President himself, that the punitive expedition of Columbus would retire from Mexican territory as soon as the Villa band of outlaws were destroyed or dispersed. More than two months have elapsed since that expedition entered the Mexican territory; Generals Scott and Funston declared at Ciudad Juarez that the bands of Villa were entirely dispersed, and despite of it all, the American troops do not leave Mexico's territory.

The United States Government is convinced of, and has accepted, the fact that no military task remains for the Columbus expedition, and yet the promise made by President Wilson to retire his forces as soon as the purpose of the expedition were achieved, has not been kept.

The reasons of a national political character that may exist not to retire the American troops from Mexican territory, no matter how well based they are supposed to be, do not justify that attitude, but on the contrary make more visible the lack of accord existing between the protests of respect to the sovereignty of Mexico, and the real fact on account of national political reasons of the United States, a state of things is allowed to continue which is extremely unfair to the Mexican Republic.

25.—The American Government declared that its purpose in making the American troops enter Mexico was only to defend its frontier against probable raids. This declaration is, nevertheless

in opposition to the attitude assumed by the same American Government at the discussion of the agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops across the border, for while the Mexican Government wanted said agreement to be limited as to the zone of operations of each country's troops, the time each expedition should last, the number of soldiers and the arms of the invading forces, the American Government constantly refused to accept these limitations. Such attitude of the American Government, being the same Government that one might expect to have more opportunities to send troops across the border after outlaws and raiders, is clearly showing the intention to acquire the power to enter Mexican territory even further south than the necessities of defense might require.

26.—The Punitive expedition of Columbus, as it has been termed, had not, according to President Wilson's declarations, any other object but to overcome and punish the band of outlaws which committed the outrage, and it was believed that such expedition had been organized on the supposition that the Mexican Government had given its consent to it. Said expedition, though, has had a character of so visible a distrust toward the Mexican Government and of so absolute an independence, that it cannot in full justice be considered as anything else but an invasion made without the consent, without the knowledge and without the co-operation, therefore, of the Mexican authorities.

It was very plain that the Columbus expedition came across the boundary line without the knowledge of the Mexican Government. The American military authorities have carried out such expedition without having awaited for the consent of the Government of Mexico, and even after they were officially informed that Government had not given its consent to it, they continued sending in more troops without advising the Mexican authorities of it.

The expedition has entered and operated in Mexican territory without even trying to obtain the co-operation of the Mexican authorities. The American military authorities have always kept a complete reserve regarding their movements without giving advice on them to the Mexican Government, as they would have done if they really had meant to obtain such co-operation. This lack of information and accord was the cause of the clash occurred at Parral between American forces and Mexican citizens.

Finally, the Columbus expedition has been made without any spirit of harmony, but, on the contrary, within a spirit of suspicion toward our authorities, since not only our co-operation was avoided, were we informed of the military operations that were taking place, but even the expedition was organized including artillery and infantry.

If the only intention was to pursue a band of outlaws, this being on account of its very nature essentially light, such pursuit

could only be carried out by means also of light cavalry forces. The use of artillery and infantry cannot be explained otherwise but as a measure of precaution against a probable attack of the Mexican forces.

Now, then, the protests of friendly co-operation by the American authorities are not in accordance with the use of infantry and artillery, exclusively destined to be employed against Mexican regular forces.

If the Columbus expedition had been made with the consent of the Mexican Government, and seeking its co-operation, the employment of infantry and artillery would have been an insult to the authorities by suspecting them of being capable of treason against the American forces that had entered our territory in persecution of the common enemy, trusting the friendship of the former. It is preferable, though, to interpret that fact as a proof that the American forces entered the Mexican territory without the consent of the Mexican Government, and therefore they were ready to repulse any aggression of the regular Mexican forces which knew nothing of their presence there.

All these facts seem to prove that there has been a great discrepancy between the protests of sincere and friendly co-operation on the part of the American authorities and the effective attitude of the expedition, which, on account of its distrust, the reserve of its movements and the arms of its men, clearly indicated it to be a hostile expedition and a real invasion of our territory.

27.—The American Government has declared on several occasions that the Columbus expedition had no other purpose in view than the pursuit and destruction of the Villa bands, and that as soon as said object were achieved the troops would retire.

However, facts have demonstrated that the intention of the American Government was not the same during the conferences at Juarez and El Paso. It cannot be explained otherwise that General Scott should have insisted so emphatically on the signing of a Memorandum where it was stated that the American forces would not conclude their withdrawal if any new incident should arise to prove that the belief of the American Government in the capability of the Mexican Government to protect the border, was not an erroneous belief. The conclusion derived from this insistence of General Scott regarding the signing of said Memorandum, is that the Columbus expedition entered Mexico promising to retire as soon as the Villa bands were destroyed, but that it is now intended to use such expedition as an instrument to secure the protection of the border.

28.—The American Government is justified in its desire to have the border protected. If the frontier were duly guarded against raids from Mexico, there would be no more reason for the existing difficulties. The American Government knows the difficulties met

in the way of the protection of a boundary line without any natural conditions helping to defend it, and notwithstanding its enormous resources, the American Government itself has been unable to give an effectual protection along the two thousand or more kilometers covering the border.

The Mexican Government made the proposition that the military chiefs in charge of the troops of both countries should discuss a plan of military cantonments along the boundary line, and despite the portests of the American Government that its desire is to solve the present difficulties with Mexico, General Scott did not agree to carry out said plan of cantonments, which seemed to be the only reasonable action both countries could take to avoid violations of the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of each other. The American Government prefers to keep its troops inactive, in idleness, within the Mexican territory, instead of taking them out to place them along the border in accord with the Mexican authorities, which would act in the same way. Thus the American Government gives occasion to the supposition that its real intention is to keep in Mexico the troops already sent down here, expecting to need them later on for future operations it may intend.

29.—The American Government on all occasions has declared its willingness to help the Constitutionalist Government in its task of pacifying the country and its wishes to have this task carried out as soon as possible. The real attitude of the American Government in regard to these wishes is entirely out of accord, since said Government has been acting in a way that shows not only resistance to lending any practical help toward the pacification of Mexico, but on the contrary, it seems that it lays all possible obstacles in the way to such pacification. In fact, without considering the great number of diplomatic claims which under the excuse of extending protection to the American interests established in Mexico constantly harass the work of this Government, now endeavoring to organize the political, economic and social conditions of the country upon a new basis, a great number of facts make us feel the influence of the American Government is against the consolidation of the actual Mexican regime.

The decided support had at a time by Villa from General Scott and the Department of State itself, were the main cause of the prolongation for many months of our civil war in Mexico. Later on the support of the Mexican Catholic clergy, who incessantly work against the Constitutionalist Administration, and the constant activities of the interventionist press and the business men of the United States, seem to prove that the American Government does not want or cannot prevent all the works of conspiracy carried out in the United States against Mexico.

30.—The American Government incessantly demands of the Mexican authorities an effectual protection of the United States

border, and yet the majority of the bands assuming the name of rebels against this Government, are supplied and armed—if not also organized—on the American side, tolerated by the authorities of the State of Texas, and it might be said even by the United States Federal authorities. The leniency used by the American Government toward these bands is such, that in the greater number of the cases the conspirators, who are very well known, when they have been discovered and even captured, obtain their liberty on insignificant bail, which allows them to renew their plotting.

The Mexican emigrants who conspire and organize raids on the American side have at present more facilities than ever to do harm, because knowing that any new difficulty between Mexico and the United States will prolong the stay of the American troops, they try to add new occasions of conflict and friction.

31.—The American Government says it will help the Constitutionalist regime to pacify the country and demands that such pacification be carried out in the shortest possible time and that the protection of the border be done in the most effectual way. And yet that Government has embargoed several times the shipments of arms and ammunition bought by the Mexican Government in the United States, although needed to hasten the pacification and to protect more efficaciously the boundary line. The excuses for embargoing the shipments of ammunition consigned to this Government have always been futile and never were frank reasons offered for it; it has been said, for instance, that the ammunition was embargoed on account of not knowing who was its real owner, or for fear lest it might fall in the hands of the Villistas.

The embargo of war material consigned to the Mexican Government can have no other interpretation but this: that the American Government wants to safeguard itself against the emergency of a future conflict, and, therefore, it tries to prevent the Government from receiving arms and ammunition which might be employed against the very American troops. The American Government may be right to safeguard itself against such possibility, but in that case it should not say that it is trying to co-operate with the Mexican Government, as it would be much more desirable to find a greater frankness in its proceedings.

Either the American Government decidedly and frankly wishes to help the Mexican Government to restore peace, and in this case it should not stop the shipping of arms for us, or its true purposes are to be prepared for the case of a future war with Mexico, so that Mexico then would find itself lacking arms and ammunition. If this should be the intention, it would be better to say so.

Anyway, the embargoing of war material intended for the Mexican authorities, declared with the frivolous excuse of preventing its falling into the hands of the Villa bands, is a clear indication

that the real acts of the American military authorities are not in accord with the peaceful purposes of the American Government.

The Mexican Government could never desire war with the United States, and if it should finally come, it would undoubtedly be as consequence of a deliberate purpose on the part of the United States. At present those acts of precaution of the Americans seem to be indications that there is an intention to prepare for such emergency, or, what is about the same, the existence of an element of hostility on the part of the United States toward Mexico.

32.—Finally, the New York authorities, at the request of a neutral society of pacifists, as it is said, have ordered the embargo of some pieces of machinery about to be shipped to Mexico for making ammunition, which machinery could not possibly be used for several months after its arrival in this country. This action of the American Government, tending to prevent the making of ammunition in the near future, is also a hint that the real purposes of the Washington Administration toward Mexico are not very peaceful, since, while millions and millions of dollars in arms and material are daily sent to Europe, the pacifist societies of the United States showing no concern for such a bloody war, the New York authorities show themselves ready to follow the indication of such humanitarian societies when the case is to export to Mexico machinery for the making of war material.

Mexico has the unquestionable right, just like the United States and all the nations of the world, to meet her military needs, especially when she has in hand the enormous task of pacifying the country; and the action of the United States Government in embargoing the above mentioned machinery is very clear: either the United States want to lay obstacles in the way to the complete pacification of Mexico, or such an act is purely one of the series of acts performed by the United States authorities as part of the projected plan for a premeditated war against Mexico.

33.—All the above mentioned circumstances indicate that the real purposes of the United States military authorities are in absolute opposition to the continuous protests of friendship made by the American Government toward Mexico.

34.—The Mexican people and the Mexican Government have the absolute certainty that the American people do not wish war with Mexico. There are, though, great American and Mexican interests earnestly endeavoring to create a conflict between the two countries. The Mexican Government firmly wishes to keep at peace with the American Government, but to that effect it is indispensable that the American Government be pleased to make a frank explanation of its real designs toward Mexico.

It is indispensable that the contradiction there is between the Washington protests of friendship and the acts of distrust and aggression on the part of the American military authorities, shall disappear.

The people and Government of Mexico therefore, need to know exactly what to depend upon, and they wish to be sure that the expressions so often proffered by the United States Government really correspond to the sincere wish of friendship between the peoples, friendship which must exist not only in statements but also crystallized in deeds.

The Mexican Government formally invites, therefore, the United States Government, to put an end to this embarrassing situation or uncertainty between the two countries, and to support its declarations and protests of friendship with real effectual actions to convince the Mexican people of the sincerity of its purposes.

These actions in the present situation cannot be other than the withdrawal of the American troops now in Mexican territory.

I have the honor to obey the instructions of the First Chief, and avail myself of the opportunity to offer Your Excellency the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

The Secretary,
(Signed) C. AGUILAR.

To His Excellency, Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States of America, Washington, D. C.

(Doc. No. 64).

TELEGRAM.

Matamoros, June 17th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar:

Your message of today in regard to incident of a Mexican band attacking American forces stationed near San Benito, Texas, received. General Parker gave orders to his troops to pursue the Mexicans even into our territory, Parker saying he acted so by superior instructions and in conformity with treaty between both countries. General Parker said nothing to me until the invasion had taken place. The attitude of the American people at Brownsville is quiet; many Mexicans are coming over to offer their services. General Parker and other officers seem to regret the case and expressed vehement wishes to avoid conflict. I showed respect. Even ten and twelve year-old boys have offer to defend the national honor. Many Mexicans residing within my jurisdiction were anxious to come and lend their services. I had no time to advise them on the breaking nor to get in touch with the Embassy. I know no details of the encounter General Ricaut says his men had with the Americans. With all regard.

J. Z. GARZA.

(Doc. No. 65).

TELEGRAM.

General Candido Aguilar:

General Ricaut having arrived, he called on me and ordered me to close the Consulate immediately and deliver the keys to the Spanish Vice-Consul, which I did, that gentlemen promising to protect during my absence the lives and interests of our citizens and our Government. General Ricaut also gave instructions to tell General Parker, chief of the American forces, that he has superior orders to repulse by force of arms any invasion made by American soldiers to our territory, and that he was backed by the whole Mexican people to defend the national honor. General Parker answered through me to General Ricaut that he was ready to avoid an international conflict and that if General Ricaut ordered his forces, which he had sent to attack the American troops gone in to Mexico, not to do it, General Parker would immediately order the withdrawal of his men, and thus the war between both countries would be averted, which I immediately communicated to General Ricaut. This officer said that his forces had already advanced a great distance and it was impossible for him to stop them, as he had no proper means at his disposal to do it, but if General Parker was really willing to prevent the conflict he could order the immediate withdrawal of his forces, since he has the means to do it—good roads, telephonic system and automobiles well equipped for a swift communication. General Parker answered that it was impossible for him to withdraw his forces to-night, but he would do it tomorrow morning, to which I answered that General Ricaut could not make any new concession and that General Parker had in his hands the preventing of the conflict or to drag us into a costly war. Then I came to this side with Secretary Benevendo, where I expect your respectable orders. Hearty greetings.

The Consul, J. Z. GARZA.

(Doc. No. 66).

TELEGRAM.

Matamoros, June 18th, 1916.

Greetings: The American troops which crossed the river were not attacked yesterday because my men did not arrive in time on account of the condition of their horses; but they continued their advance and in thirty minutes they will be at the place of the happenings. A few minutes ago the American Consul called on me

to say that everything was ended; that they had ordered the withdrawal of their troops; but if my forces, during the time I just said, arrive there and find the Americans, they will fight them according to the instructions I gave them. I received this morning the reinforcement of one hundred men, mounted ranchers, well armed, who placed themselves under my orders, and I sent them immediately to reinforce the men I had sent before. From yesterday at three o'clock in the afternoon to five in the morning today I have gathered about one thousand men, for this town has placed itself at one level with its reputation. I still have some five hundred men or more unarmed, and reports say that from the neighboring ranches a considerable number of patriots are on the way, and will soon arrive to offer their services. Respectfully.

General A. RICAUT.

(Doc. No. 67).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 19th, 1916.

CIRCULAR NOTE.

To His Excellency the Foreign Secretary of . . .

By instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, and for the purpose of informing through your kindness the Government and people of that nation in regard to the state of our relations with the American Government, I have the honor to furnish Your Excellency the following data:

On the seventeenth inst., Saturday, an American force entered the Mexican territory near the port of Matamoros, under the pretext of pursuing certain bandits. Mexican forces repulsed the invasion, and after a light shooting, in which we lost one dead and two wounded, the Americans went back to their territory. On the eighteenth at Mazatlan in a boat of the United States cruiser "Annapolis" there tried to land two officers and some marines to ask permission to take aboard some American citizens. A civilian fired at the crew, and shooting ensued in which that citizen as also two of our soldiers and an American marine were wounded, the officers of the American man-of-war being held and then returned to their ship, the incident closing with satisfactory explanations. The American Government has ordered the immediate concentration of its army upon our border with visible hostility, wishing to drag us into a war that neither the Mexican Government nor the people have provoked. Although unfair and unequal, such war seems unavoida-

ble, since the Government and the people of Mexico are firmly disposed to defend their sovereignty and absolute independence even at the cost of their blood and the destruction of their wealth. This Government believes, and it has expressed it so very loyally, that the United States's attitude is not in accord with her protests of friendship toward the Spanish-American republics, and that her unjust proceedings toward Mexico affect the other sister republics, and tend to sever the ties uniting them in close solidarity in the presence of the future on account of their common ideas, origin and interests. I request of Your Excellency to accept the testimonies of my most distinguished consideration.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs,

C. AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 68).

Washington, D. C., June 20th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

I have just received from the State Department its answer to your note dated the 22d of May, which reads as follows:

Washington, June 20th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico:

Sir: I have read your note dated the 22d of May, 1916, transmitted by instructions of the Chief Executive of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico, in regard to the presence of American troops in Mexican territory, and I would lack sincerity if, before giving an answer to the exposition of acts and the conclusions obtained by your Government, I did not express the surprise and the regret caused to this Government by the uncourteous mode and character of this last note of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico.

The United States Government has seen with deep concern and increasing disappointment the development of the revolution in Mexico. Continuous massacres and disorders have marked its steps; for three years the Mexican Republic has been torn by the civil strife; the Americans' and other foreigners' lives have been sacrificed; valuable properties promoted by the capital and the activity of the Americans have been destroyed or rendered unproductive;

the bandits have been allowed to wander at their pleasure through the territory adjacent to the United States, and without punishment or any effectual intention to punish them, to plunder the property of Americans, while the lives of the United States citizens who ventured to remain in Mexican territory or who returned there to guard their property, have been destroyed, in some cases savagely sacrificed, and the murderers were never captured nor called to account.

It would be difficult to find in the annals of the Mexican history more deplorable conditions than those which have existed there during these latter years of civil strife. It would be fastidious to mention each case, outrage by outrage, atrocity by atrocity, with all their details, to illustrate the true nature and extension of the vast conditions of disorder and violence which have prevailed there during the last nine months. Particularly near the United States border, along the lower part of the Rio Grande, that region has been kept in a state of constant unrest on account of the frequent and sudden raids into American territory, and the outrages and murders committed in American territory by Mexican bandits, who have not only taken the lives and destroyed property of American citizens, but sometimes even have kidnapped our citizens across the international boundary with the spoils. The American garrisons have been attacked at night; the American soldiers killed and their equipment and horses stolen; the American ranches razed; the property plundered and squandered, and the American trains burned and looted. The attacks on the Red House of Brownsville, on the wharves, on the Post Offices at Progreso and Las Peladas, all of which occurred last September, are typical of this kind of attacks in American territory. The Carranza followers and even the Carranza soldiers took part in the sacking, burning and murdering. Not only were these murders characterized by a cruel brutality, but even savage deeds of mutilation were performed.

Representations were made to General Carranza and he was emphatically requested to prevent these responsible acts in a region he has claimed for a long time to have under the full control of his authority. Despite these representations and the promise made by General Nafarrete to prevent the assaults along the international border, still after October a passenger train was wrecked by the bandits seven miles north of Brownsville, and several persons were killed, and some days later, at that same place, the United States troops were attacked. From the date of these outrages the chiefs of the bandits, who were well known to the Mexican civil authorities as much as to the military authorities of the same country, have been enjoying full impunity, and they are free in the northern cities of Mexico. To such extreme has gone the indifference of the "De Facto" Government towards said atrocities, that some of these

chiefs, as I am informed, not only have received the protection of the Government but have also been encouraged and helped.

The outrages on American persons and properties have been still more numerous. This Government has oftentimes demanded in the most emphatic terms of the "De Facto" Government to protect the lives and homes of the American citizens and to afford the security required by international obligations to the American interests in the northern States—Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua and Sonora, and also in the south. For instance, on January 3d, troops were asked for to punish the outlaws who plundered the mining property of Cusihiuriachic, eight miles west of Chihuahua, but no effectual results were derived from such petition. During the next week the bandit Villa with a band of 200 men was operating without any opposition between Rubio and Santa Isabel, which was well known to the Carranzista authorities, when a group of unfortunate Americans left by train from Chihuahua to visit the Cusihiuriachi mines, after having received from the Chihuahua authorities assurances that the region was safe and it was not necessary to have the train escorted. The Americans had passports or safe-conducts issued by the authorities of the "De Facto" Government. On January 10th the train was held up by the bandits under Villa, and on the 18th the Americans who formed the group were stripped of their clothes and assassinated in cold blood at the place known today as the Santa Isabel Hecatomb. General Carranza said to the Agent of the Department of State that he had given orders for the immediate pursuit, capture and punishment of the people responsible for such an atrocious crime, and appealed to this Government and to the American people, asking them to consider the difficulties met in giving protection along the railroad where the hecatomb occurred. Assurances were also given by Señor Arredondo, probably by instructions of the "De Facto" Government, that the murderers would be judged and steps would be taken to remedy the disorderly conditions existing in the State of Durango. It is true that Villa, Castro and Lopez were publicly declared out of the law and subject to capture and execution, but as far as is known, just one single individual personally connected with that hecatomb has been judged by the Mexican authorities. Within the following month after the barbarous massacre of innocent Americans, it was notorious that Villa operated within a radius of 20 miles around Cusihiuriachic, and it was publicly said that his object was to destroy the lives and properties of the Americans. Despite the insistent and reiterated demands to have military protection extended to the Americans, Villa openly carried out his operations, getting closer and closer each day to the border; he was not intercepted nor his moves hindered by the troops of the "De Facto" Government, and no effectual effort was made to frustrate these hostile intentions against the Americans. In fact,

as I am informed, while Villa and his band were slowly moving toward the frontier in the vicinity of Columbus, New Mexico, not a single soldier of Mexico was seen near him. And yet, the Mexican authorities had full knowledge of his movements, because on the 6th of March, as General Gavira announced it, this military chief having advised the American military authorities on the propinquity of the outlaws to the border, to the effect that they prepared to prevent the bandits from fleeing across the boundary line.

The unhindered activities of Villa reached their climax in the unprovoked attack he effected in cold blood against the American soldiers and civilians of the city of Columbus, during the evening of March 9th, the details of which it is not necessary to repeat here to recall to your minds the enormity of the crime. After murdering, burning and looting, Villa and his bandits fled southwards, passing in sight of the Carranzista military garrison of Casas Grandes, no effort being made to stop them by the officials and the garrison of the "De Facto" Government stationed there.

In view of these outrages not only against American lives and properties in Mexican territory, but also against American soldiers, citizens and homes in American territory, committed by people General Carranza was unable, or perhaps he considered it imprudent, to apprehend and to punish, the United States had just one action to take: to employ its forces to disperse the bands of Mexican marauders who, with such increasing audacity, systematically committed outrages on the other side of the international boundary, and when they were engaged in the attack on Columbus, were repulsed toward the frontier by the American cavalry, and subsequently, as soon as enough forces got together to fight these bands, they were followed within Mexico in an effort to capture or destroy them, without the co-operation or help on the field on the part of the "De Facto" Government, despite reiterated requests made by the United States, and without the apparent recognition from that Government as to our only wish to put an end to these systematic irruptions or to punish the main authors of the crimes committed, since they endangered the good relations between the two countries.

The American forces pursued the offenders as far as Parral, where the pursuit was withheld by the hostility of the Mexicans who were supposedly loyal to the "De Facto" Government and placed themselves on the side of disorder and turned themselves into real protectors of Villa and his bands. In this way and for these reasons, the American forces entered the Mexican territory.

Knowing in full the above narrated circumstances, the "De Facto" Government of Mexico cannot disregard the necessity of compelling this Government to act, and yet it has deemed it convenient to seek in groundless feelings of hostility the cause of the expedition, imputing to this Government ulterior motives for the

continued presence of American troops in Mexican territory. The charge is made that these troops stepped over the border line without the previous consent or permit of the "De Facto" Government. Naturally, since immediate action was the only thing that could give results if the expedition was wished to be effectual, there was no opportunity to reach any other agreement besides that of March 10-13, now repudiated by General Carranza, and which was previous to the entrance of such expedition into Mexico. Subsequent happenings and correspondence have demonstrated to the satisfaction of this Government that General Carranza would have never entered into any agreement to arrange an effectual plan for the capture and destruction of the Villa bands. While the American troops were swiftly moving southward in pursuit of the assaulters, the form and the nature of the agreement were what occupied General Carranza's attention rather than the practical object that should be achieved; the number of limitations that might be imposed on the American forces in order to hinder their advance, rather than the obstacles that might be removed in order to prevent the outlaws from escaping. It was General Carranza who, by means of his note of April 12th, called off all discussion and negotiations for an agreement according to the general features or lineaments of the protocols concluded between the United States and Mexico during the period of 1882 to 1896, by which the two countries had so successfully re-established peace along their common border. It must be mentioned here that notwithstanding the assertion contained in your note, that the American Government did not answer the note of April 12th, this was replied to in April 14th, when the Department gave instructions by wire to Mr. Rodgers to deliver the response of this Government to General Carranza. A short time after this answer, the conferences started at El Paso between Generals Scott, Funston and Obregon, during which the three chiefs signed on May 2d a project of Memorandum *ad referendum* in regard to the withdrawal of the American troops. As an indication of the alleged deceitfulness of the American Government, you say that through General Scott it was declared in that Memorandum that the destruction and dispersion of the Villa band had been achieved, and yet the American forces had not been withdrawn from Mexico. Nothing is needed but the perusal of the Memorandum, which is written in the English language, to be sure that this is notoriously a false story, since said Memorandum declares that "the American punitive expedition and its forces have destroyed or dispersed many of the elements of disorder and banditry, or have driven them far back into the interior of the Mexican Republic, and furthermore, that the United States forces were then carrying on a vigorous harassment of the small groups of bandits or disorderly elements that might have escaped." The context of your note gives the impression that, having admitted as fulfilled the

purpose of the Expedition, the United States had agreed in said Memorandum to begin the retirement of the troops. The Memorandum shows, though that the withdrawal of the American forces was not decided upon only because the bands of outlaws had been partially destroyed, but also because of the assurances given by the Mexican Government that its forces "had been actually augmented and reinforced to the extent that they were now able to prevent any disorder that might occur in Mexico and could in any way endanger the American territory," and also "that the said Mexican forces would continue with all expedition pursuing, capturing or destroying any bands of outlaws which might still exist or which might appear in the future in Northern Mexico," adding that "a convenient distribution would be made of those of its forces which might be necessary to prevent the possibility of an invasion of the American territory from Mexico." It was in view of the securities offered and on account of the confidence of General Scott that such measures would be taken, that the declaration was made in the Memorandum that "the American forces would gradually retire."

It is worthy of remark that while the American Government was wishing to ratify the agreement, General Carranza declined to do it, according to General Obregon, because, among other things, such Memorandum imposed conditions which were deemed improper by the Mexican Government. Notwithstanding the assurances contained in the Memorandum, it is well known that the forces of the "De Facto" Government have not undertaken a vigorous pursuit of the remaining bandits and no suitable distribution of forces has been made to prevent the invasion of American territory, as will be seen by the ulterior facts afterward narrated. I am not ready to accept the conclusion that would result from these circumstances, that the "De Facto" Government, despite the crimes committed and the sinister designs of Villa and his followers, did not intend nor intends or wishes now that these outlaws be captured, destroyed or dispersed by the American troops, or, at the request of this Government, by the Mexican troops. While the conferences were taking place at El Paso and after the American delegates had received assurances on May 2d that the Mexican forces were being increased in the northern part of the Republic so as to be able to prevent disorders which might endanger the American territory, a band of Mexicans, during the night of May 5th, assaulted Glenn Springs, Texas, some 20 miles north of the border, killing American soldiers and civilians and kidnapping other Americans. After this new incident the Mexican Government, as you say, "gave instructions to General Obregon to notify the United States Government that the former would not allow any future sending of American troops into Mexico on that account, and that orders had been given to all the military commanders along the border not to consent to

it." Of course, this Government is not in the situation to doubt the assertion that such instructions were given to General Obregon, but in a decisive way it can be assured that General Obregon never made such notification either to General Scott or to General Funston, nor, that we know of, to any other American officer. General Obregon, though, asked whether the American troops had entered Mexico in persecution of the Glenn Springs' assaulters, and General Funston said that no orders had been given to the American troops to cross the border as a consequence of the raid; but this declaration was made before such orders had been given, and not afterwards, as the erroneous story of the interview given in your note seemed to indicate. Furthermore, the American generals made no promise that "no more American troops would step over into our territory;" on the contrary, it was expressly mentioned to General Obregon and to Señor Juan Amador, who was present at the conference, and it was mentioned to them with all emphasis, that the bandits De la Rosa and Pedro Vino, who had been the organizers of the invasions into Texas, near Brownsville, were known to be around Victoria, arranging another raid to the border, and General Obregon was made to understand very clearly that if the Mexican Government took no immediate action to prevent another invasion of the United States by those marauders, who were frequently seen accompanied by the Constitutionalist Commander General Nafarrete, Mexico would find in Tamaulipas another punitive expedition like that actually found in Chihuahua. The American troops went across the boundary into Mexico on May 10th, after notifying the local military authorities, according to the repudiated agreement of March 10-13, or, at all events, according to the practice adopted since over forty years ago, when there was no agreement regarding the pursuit of bandits across the border. These troops entered 168 miles into Mexican territory in hot pursuit of the Glenn Springs bandits, without meeting a detachment of troops or a single Mexican soldier.

It is not necessary, nevertheless, to discuss any further this assault, since the American forces sent in pursuit of the bandits went back to Texas on the morning of May 22d, the date of the note of yours under consideration; a new proof that the only purpose of this Government was to see to it that disorder was repressed and the state of turmoil along the border stopped.

During the conferences at El Paso, General Scott did not take in consideration, as you assure, the plan proposed by the Mexican Government for the protection of the border by means of a reciprocal distribution of troops along the boundary line. This proposition was presented by General Obregon several times, but always under the condition of the immediate withdrawal of the American troops, and the Mexican delegates always received in answer information

that the immediate retirement could not take place, and consequently it was impossible to discuss that project on such basis.

I notice the fact that your note is not confined to a discussion of the deplorable conditions existing along the frontier and its important influence upon the peaceful relations of our Governments, but an effort is also made to connect that matter with other circumstances, so as to support as far as possible a mistaken interpretation of the attitude the United States have assumed toward Mexico. You say, indeed, that the American Government has laid all possible obstacles to the pacification of Mexico, and that this is demonstrated by the great number of diplomatic claims in behalf of American interests which constantly hinder that Government's efforts to reorganize the political, economic and social conditions of the country; by the decided help lent at a time by the American authorities and the State Department to Francisco Villa; by the help of the American Catholic clergy to that of Mexico; by the constant activity of the American press in behalf of intervention, to favor the interests of the American business men; by the refuge and supply offered to rebels and conspirators in American territory; by the embargo on shipments of arms and ammunitions bought by the Mexican Government and by the embargo of machinery for their manufacture. In reply to this overwhelming charge, I can certainly affirm that the American Government has given all possible encouragement to the "De Facto" Government in the pacification and rehabilitation of Mexico. From the moment of its recognition it has had the undivided support of this Government; an interdiction was placed regarding arms and ammunition consigned to Chihuahua, Sonora and Lower California, for the purpose of preventing it from falling in the hands of the armed enemies of the "De Facto" Government; permits were granted from time to time whenever requested, for the Mexican troops and their equipment to go across the American territory from one point to another of Mexico in order that the operations of the Mexican troops against Villa and his forces might be easier. In view of these friendly acts, it is very surprising to me that the "De Facto" Government should have interpreted the diplomatic claims on unfair treatment given to the American interests as a particular help lent to the enemies of the "De Facto" Government by the sympathizers living outside, and the activities of the foreign press as an intrusion on the part of the United States in the domestic policy of Mexico.

If a denial is needed that this Government should have had any ulterior and crooked motives for its diplomatic claims, or that it fostered the activities of the American sympathizers and the American press, opposed to the "De Facto" Government, with all pleasure and in the most emphatic way I do deny it.

Nevertheless, it is something the whole world knows, that the Mexican press has been more active than the United States press

in trying to inflame the two peoples against each other and to push the two countries to break into hostilities. With the power of censorship over the Mexican press so rigorously exerted by the "De Facto" Government, the responsibility of these activities, it seems, could not be rejected by it, and the very proclamation of General Carranza himself published by the press on March 12th, calling the Mexican people to be prepared for any emergency that might come up, and insinuating that war with the United States was imminent, evinces the activity of the "De Facto" Government in regard to such publications.

It should not cause any surprise that after such manifestations of hostile feelings the United States should doubt as to the object for which were designed the great amounts of war material that the "De Facto" Government seemed so anxious to import from this country. For the rest, the policy of the "De Facto" Government of declining all co-operation and yet refusing to act independently for the destruction of the Villa bandits, or to repress in any other way the turmoil existing at points near the frontier, so as to remove thus the danger of war materials falling into the hands of the enemies of law and order when sent to the south through that zone, is, in the opinion of this Government, a sufficient motive, even there being none else, for denying the permission for such materials to cross the border toward the region infested by bandits. To have allowed these shipments of war material without a careful investigation would have been equivalent, under such circumstances, to show an unreasonable security.

Sincerity compels me to add that the unconcealed hostility of the subordinate military authorities of the "De Facto" Government towards the American troops engaged in the pursuit of the Villa bands, and the efforts of the "De Facto" Government to force their withdrawal from Mexico territory by means of threats and ostentation of military forces, instead of helping to the capture of the outlaws, imply a menace for the safety of the American troops and the peace of the border. While this menace subsists and there exist proofs of the "De Facto" Government or its military commanders intending to use force against the American troops instead of co-operating with them, the United States Government will not allow any war material nor the machinery for their manufacture to be exported into Mexico.

As to refuge and supply of the rebels and conspirators in American territory, I may say that strenuous efforts are being made by the United States agents to capture and take into court all the persons plotting to violate the United States laws by organizing themselves to oppose in arms against the "De Facto" Government of Mexico. Political refugees have undoubtedly sought refuge in the United States, but this Government has kept them under watch, and has not hesitated in apprehending them whenever there has been

any evidence of their unlawful intentions, as the arrest of General Huerta and others fully testifies.

Having corrected the erroneous relation of facts I have referred to, the real situation presents itself in its true aspect. It is admitted that the American troops have stepped over the boundary line in hot pursuit of the assaulters of Columbus without advising your Government and without its consent; but the various protests on the part of this Government, made by the President, by the Department and by other authorities, that the object of the expedition was to capture, to destroy or to disperse completely the Villa band of outlaws, or to restitute this obligation to the Mexican authorities when there were assurances that it would be effectually performed, have been carried out in perfect good faith by the United States. However, our efforts have been often hindered, first on account of an agreement visibly useless, as you admit, or else which was not applicable to the present expedition, or contained impracticable restrictions in its organization and working; then by the effectual opposition encouraged and fostered by the "De Facto" Government regarding the advance of the expedition into Villa's territory, to which ensued the sudden interruption of all negotiations intended for the harassment of Villa and his followers and the protection of the border, and finally, by the demand for an immediate withdrawal of the American troops. In the meantime unrestricted anarchical conditions have prevailed along the frontier States of Mexico; raids into America territory were plotted and executed, and the assault upon Glenn Springs was successfully carried out, while no effort was made by General Carranza to improve such conditions and protect the American territory against the constant menaces of invasion. In view of this increasing peril, of the inactivity of the Carranza forces, of their lack of co-operation to apprehend the Villa bands, and of the well-known encouragement and help extended to the chiefs of the outlaws, it is most unreasonable to expect that the United States should retire their forces from Mexican territory or avoid their entering once more when their presence is the only way to check ulterior outrages of bandits and the only effectual means to protect American lives and homes, a safeguard that General Carranza, although internationally obligated to afford, it is plain that he cannot, or will not, give.

In view of the actual state of things as I have sketched it above, I find myself now in the situation to study the conclusions you have advanced in your note in question from the erroneous relation of facts exposed in it.

Your Government insinuates—if it is not that it openly lays that charge—that the United States' attitude is one of duplicity, distrust and suspicion toward the "De Facto" Government, and that the intention of the United States in sending its troops to Mexico is to extend its sovereignty over Mexican territory and not simply

with the object of pursuit marauders and to avoid future raids across the border. The "De Facto" Government makes an implicit charge, having but one sole interpretation, that this Government is after territorial expansion even at the cost of a war of aggression against a neighbor who is weakened by years of civil strife. If the United States Government had any designs as to the territory of Mexico it would have had no difficulty during this period of revolution and disorder to find plausible arguments to intervene in Mexican affairs. Hoping, however, that the Mexican people by their own efforts could restore peace and establish a government of order, the United States have been waiting with all patience the consummation of the revolution. When the superiority of the revolutionary faction lead by General Carranza became unquestionable, the United States, after consulting with six other republics of the Continent, extended unconditional recognition to the present "De Facto" Government. This country hoped that the Carranza administration would re-establish order with all haste and would give the Mexican people and the foreigners who have lent their energy and resources for the development of the great resources of the Republic, the opportunity to rebuild in peace and safety their tottered fortunes. This Government has waited months and months for the realization of its hopes. Despite increasing disappointments and notwithstanding frequent provocations to use force in the re-establishment of order in the northern of regions of Mexico, where the American interests have been at the mercy of the outlaws, the United States Government has refrained itself from any aggressive action, and tried, by means of moderate although explicit claims, to carry to the conviction of the "De Facto" Government the seriousness of the situation and to call it to its duty to perform its international obligations toward the United States citizens who entered the Mexican territory or invested their fortunes within its frontiers. In view of the constant and renewed demonstrations of patience and leniency of this Government in circumstances in which only a government abounding in disinterestedness and in a sincere wish to respect in full the rights of sovereignty and of national dignity of the Mexican people, might have endured, in its note of May 22d some doubts and suspicion are expressed in regard to the motives of the United States Government, regarding which I cannot imagine other purpose but that of impugning the good faith of this Government, because I find it difficult to believe that such imputations are not universally considered as lacking the slightest shadow of justification. Indeed, can the "De Facto" Government entertain any doubts that if the United States had set its covetous eye on Mexican territory it had found many excuses in the past for the satisfaction of its wishes? Can that Government doubt that some months ago, when the struggle between the contending factions was in its development, better opportunities were offered than at present for an American

intervention, if such had been the purposes of the United States, as the "De Facto" Government now insinuates? What motive could this Government have had to abstain itself from taking advantage of such opportunities but its disinterested friendship towards Mexico?

Of course I have taken into consideration your argument that the responsibility of the present situation falls mainly on this Government. In the first place, you affirm that even the American forces along the border, not having their attention divided among other military operations, find themselves "physically unable to protect the border in the American territory in an effectual way." Naturally, if there are no means to overcome the bands who loot in Mexican territory and make sudden raids at night on American territory, it is impossible to prevent such invasions, unless the frontier were protected by a continuous cordon of troops. It is not to be expected that a government may keep a force of such strength along the boundary line of a nation with which the former is at peace, for the purpose of repulsing the attacks of small bands of outlaws, especially when the neighboring State makes no effort to prevent such attacks. The most effectual way to avoid raids of this nature, as has been demonstrated by experience, is to demand the punishment or the destruction of the bandits. This is just the plan the United States desire to adopt along the frontier without any intention to make an attempt against the sovereignty of her neighbor, but which, although undoubtedly advantageous for the "De Facto" Government, this refuses to permit or to tolerate. It is indeed the protection of lives and properties of Americans which worries the United States and not the methods or processes by which such protection can be afforded. If the Mexican Government does not want to or cannot give this protection, preventing its territory from being the place of meeting and the refuge of murderers and marauders, that does not relieve this Government of its duty to take all the necessary step toward safeguarding the American citizens in their own territory. The United States Government cannot permit and will not permit that bands of outlaws be established near the border, perfectly free to plunder American territory without being punished for it, nor that when such outlaws are pursued they seek refuge beyond the Río Grande, relying on their Government's pretension that the integrity of the Mexican soil must not be violated.

The Mexican Government further protests that it "has made all efforts within its power to protect the border," and that it is now doing "all possible to prevent the repetition of such acts." Attention is again called to the well known and unrestricted activities of De la Rosa, Aniceto Pizano, Pedro Vino and others in connection with the raids on the border, and also to the fact that, according to reports in hand, up to the 4th of June De la Rosa was still recruiting men in Monterrey with the deliberate purpose of attacking

the border cities of Texas, and Pedro Vino was recruiting in other places for the same express purpose. I have already marked the unhindered advance of Villa upon Columbus, and his retirement, and the fact that the American forces in pursuit of the assaulters of Glenn Springs entered 168 miles into Mexican territory without having met on the way one single Carranza soldier. This does not indicate that the Mexican Government is doing "everything possible" to prevent ulterior raids, and if it is doing "everything possible," it is not enough to avoid attacks on the border, and consequently, there is much reason for this Government taking the preventive measures that may be deemed necessary.

It is suggested that the damage suffered by the raids of the bandits is matter of pecuniary reparation but never a cause for the American troops to invade the Mexican soil. The precedents that have been established and sustained by the Government of the Mexican Republic during the last fifty years, do not back up this statement; it has been almost a custom not to adjust the depredations of bandits by means of pecuniary indemnities only, but to suppress such disorders and to prevent the repetition of such crimes by means of a swift and sure punishment.

The "De Facto" Government finally argues that "if the frontier were duly protected against raids from Mexico, there would be no reason for the existing difficulties." Thus the "De Facto" Government tries to absolve itself from the first duty of every government, that is, the protection of lives and properties. This is the prime obligation for which governments are instituted, and these who neglect it or fail to perform it, do not deserve the name of such. This is the obligation for which it must be believed that General Carranza started his revolution in Mexico and organized the present Government, and for which the United States Administration recognized his Government as the "De Facto" Government of Mexico. The protection of lives and properties of the Americans residing in the United States is first an obligation of this Government, and in Mexico this obligation firstly belong to Mexico and then to the United States. In order to assure this protection along the common frontier, the United States have the right to expect the co-operation of the neighboring Republic, and yet, instead of taking any steps for restricting or punishing the assaulters, the "De Facto" Government delays and objects to the measures adopted by the United States. The United States Government does not want to believe that the "De Facto" Government approves of these attacks of outlaws; however, since they are still effected, it is clearly seen that the Mexican Government is unable to prevent them. Such inability, as this Government has had occasion to say in the past, may excuse the lack of success to suppress the outrages we complain of, but it does not more that reinforce the obligation of the United

States to prevent them; because if the Mexican Government cannot protect the lives and properties of the Americans exposed to the attacks of the Mexicans, the United States Government is under the obligation to do so at any rate.

To conclude, the Mexican Government invites the United States Government to back up its "declarations of friendship with real and effective acts," which "cannot be other than the immediate retirement of the American troops." For the reasons I have very amply stated above, this demand of the "De Facto" Government cannot be accepted. The United States have not sought for themselves the obligation, thrust upon them by force, of pursuing bandits who, according to the fundamental principles of municipal and international law, should be pursued, arrested and punished by the Mexican authorities. Whenever Mexico may assume and effectually perform this duty, the United States, as has been oftentimes before publicly declared, will be very glad to let this obligation be complied with by the "De Facto" Government of Mexico; if, on the contrary, the "De Facto" Government deems it convenient to ignore this obligation and to believe that "in case of refusing to retire the troops there is nothing left but to defend the Mexican territory by means of arms," the United States Government surely would be lacking in sincerity and friendship if it did not make it understand, very frankly, to the "De Facto" Government, that the execution of such threat would lead to the gravest consequences. While this Government would very deeply lament such result, it cannot recede from its decided determination to support its national rights and to perform all its duties, avoiding ulterior invasions of the United States territory, and removing the danger which the Americans who live along the international boundary have endured for such a long time with all patience and resignation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed) LANSING.

With regard,

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 69).

Mexico, June 21st, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

Please inform the State Department that a clash occurred today at Carrizal, near Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua, between American forces numbering about two hundred, and forces of this Government,

in which General Felix Gomez was killed and we had other losses, some American soldiers being dead and our soldiers having captured seventeen Americans. According to declarations made by the interpreter who acted as guide for the expeditioners, their commander was to blame for the encounter. Make to the Department the corresponding written representation, and please declare to the Secretary that this Government finds it strange that the American troops which were fought should be at Carrizal, a place located on the Mexican Central Railroad a short distance from Juarez and too far from where it has been assured that the rest of the forces which entered through Columbus are stationed.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 70).

On the side space a seal reading: "Constitutionalist Army. Military Commandership. Ciudad Juarez." Above: "List of the War material taken from the American forces at El Carrizal, Chihuahua, and delivered to General G. Bell, Commander of the forces at El Paso, Texas:

"2 horses; 31 Mauser rifles 8mm.; 3236 cartridges, 8mm.; 7 guns, 45; 7 halters, 3 bridles; 22 cartridge belts; 18 valises for provisions; 15 canteens; 13 raincoats; 7 tents; 21 saddles; 2 harnesses; 7 shotgun covers; 5 chains; 1 blue mantle; 16 black clothes.

"Juarez City, Chihuahua, June 21st, 1916. Received O. K. By order of General G. Bell.—P. Grown."

(Doc. No. 71.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, July 21st, 1916.

CIRCULAR NOTE.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of.....

By instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, I have the honor to inform through Your Excellency's kindness the Government and the people of that nation on later happenings which have strained the relations between Mexico and the United States. An American force of the so-called punitive expedition advanced today on Villa

Ahumada, Chihuahua, with the intention to occupy that place, which is located on the railroad line between Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez. The Mexican garrison of the threatened town went out to check the Americans' advance, meeting them at Carrizal, the next station, and fighting them until they were repulsed, with losses on both sides, we making seventeen prisoners of the enemy. We have to lament the death of General Felix Gomez, Chief of the Mexican garrison, the first victim among the chiefs of the Mexican Army to fall in defense of our sovereignty and the honor of our flag. The interpreter who accompanied the American forces declared that their commander was to blame for the clash. It seems that the American Government, lacking any judicial or political ground to declare war on Mexico, wants to make it unavoidable by means of incidents which are dragging us into it. Mexico will know how to vanquish or die with all dignity, but she wants beforehand to make clear to all the American continent the behavior observed by the United States Government, in trying to find excuses for intervention. I renew to Your Excellency the expression of my highest consideration.

(Signed) C. AGUILAR,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

To Their Excellencies, Messrs. the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs of:

El Salvador, San Salvador.
Honduras, Tegucigalpa.
Nicaragua, Managua.
Costa Rica, San José.
Panama, Panama.
Cuba, Santiago.
Haiti, Puerto Principe.
Puerto Rico, San Juan.
Colombia, Bogota.
Venezuela, Caracas.
Ecuador, Quito.
Peru, Lima.
Brazil, Rio Janeiro.
Bolivia, La Paz.
Paraguay, Asuncion.
Uruguay, Montevideo.
Chile, Santiago.
Argentine, Buenos Aires.

(Doc. No. 72).

TELEGRAM.

San Jose, C. R., June 22d, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I had the honor to receive the message of Your Excellency in which you are pleased to inform my Government of the lamentable clash occurred between Mexican and American forces, with the result that war between Mexico and the United States seems unavoidable. It is an honor for me to tell you in response to said message, that my Government deplores very heartily such a state of things and wishes very eagerly that a serious conflict may be averted in a peaceful and honorable manner for both countries, announcing that if in order to obtain this happy result our good and friendly offices were accepted, this Government would offer them with all pleasure. Assuring Your Excellency of my highest consideration.

JULIO ACOSTA.

(Doc. No. 73.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica:

The chief of my Government instructs me to express in the most expressive way to the Costa Rica Government our sincere appreciation for the offering of their friendly offices to obtain a favorable settlement of the actual difficulties between Mexico and the United States.

My Government wishes Your Excellency to impress on the Government and the people of Costa Rica the conviction that the Mexican people loves peace, and therefore the Government as well as the people will make all efforts to keep it as the most effectual means to consolidate the true liberty and the independence of the Nation. I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that this Government already gave instructions to our Representative at Washington to get in touch with representatives of that sister Republic and of other nations who have offered their good offices in this conflict.

Please accept for both, Your Excellency and your Government, the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 74.)

TELEGRAM.

Quito, June 22d, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:
(No. 446.)

With heartfelt regret my Government was informed by the message with which Your Excellency has honored us, of the imminent danger of a war between Mexico and the United States. The Mexican Government may be sure that Ecuador will do all within her power to avoid such a tremendous catastrophe. My Government, eagerly desiring to help the cause of peace between sister Republics, has initiated negotiations to that effect, being convinced that the two American nations now in danger of war will exhaust their mutual efforts to prevent such calamity, thus giving the best proof of their patriotism, their love to the American brotherhood and of feelings without which international fraternity and the progress of mankind would be impossible. Now better than ever must we realize the necessity and the advantages of peace, which, founded on justice and benevolence, always gives the people adequate means to fully satisfy their rights and their genuine interests. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

R. H. ELIZALDE, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 75.)

TELEGRAM.

Quito, June 24th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

No. 450—With very deep regret has my Government been informed of the happenings Your Excellency narrates in his last message. The whole of America shares this our feeling. Let us hope that a high conception of patriotism may prevent the calamity of war. I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

ELIZALDI, Foreign Minister.

(Doc. No. 76.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 25, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Quito, Ecuador.

I have informed my Government of your Excellency's message so kindly addressed to me wherein it is expressed that the Ecuadorean Government will do whatever lies in its power to prevent a war between Mexico and the United States; trusting that both nations will resort to all means to avoid it, that Government has started negotiation towards finding a satisfactory solution of present difficulties between the two countries. I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that our representative at Washington has been instructed to meet your representative and those of the sister republics as have favored the suggestion. I express to Your Excellency very deep appreciation for the sympathy and solidarity of race shown by that Government's attitude, and I may assure that Government and people of Mexico loving peace and being convinced that it is the only thing that may lead as to liberty and true prosperity, will not omit any effort toward preserving it if no affront is inflicted upon our dignity and sovereignty.

Please accept for Your Excellency and the Ecuadorean Government the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Foreign Secretary.

(Doc. No. 77.)

TELEGRAM.

Quito, June 28th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

No. 453.—I acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's message, so interesting, dated the 26th, which we carefully considered. Up to this moment we have received the acceptance of our initiative or declarations to be in sympathy with it, from the foreign offices of Buenos Aires, Havana, Santiago, Rio Janeiro, Montevideo, La Paz, Lima, Bogota, San Jose de Costa Rica, San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, Managua, Port-au-Prince and Santo Domingo. Our Minister at Washington works actively on the case.

ELIZALDI, Foreign Minister.

(Doc. No. 78.)

TELEGRAM.

San Salvador, June 23d, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

Your message of yesterday duly considered. The Salvador Government still entertains the hope that the danger of an armed conflict may disappear between Mexico and the United States, and being sure that the other nations of the Continent are moved by the same desire to prevent the armed conflict, has adopted with all good will the proposal made by the Ecuadorean Government for a joint action at Washington to avoid it. It is highly pleasing for me to advise you on this matter, reassuring Your Excellency of my most distinguished consideration.

F. MARTINEZ SUAREZ, Foreign Minister.

(Doc. No. 79.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 25th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, San Salvador:

This Government appreciates very heartily the attitude assumed by the Government of that sister Republic by accepting so readily the initiative of the Ecuador Government for a joint action at Washington intended to avoid an armed conflict between Mexico and the United States. Our representative near the American Government has already instructions to get in touch with your Representative and those of other sister nations who have offered their co-operation. Please Your Excellency and your Government accept the assurances of my high consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 80.)

TELEGRAM.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, June 23d, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Hondurean Government sincerely deplores the happenings you are pleased to mention in your message, and we hope that if it

is still possible, the conflict between that Republic and the United States will be averted. To this purpose this Government offers its friendly offices to co-operate in the mediation initiated by the Ecuadorean Government.

MARIO VAZQUEZ, Foreign Minister.

(Doc. No. 81.)

TELEGRAM.

Bogota (via Salina Cruz), June 24th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to answer the important message of Your Excellency dated the 20th inst., according to instructions I have from the President of the Republic, being informed of what Your Excellency is pleased to communicate to my Government regarding the actual status of the relations between the Mexican United States and the United States of America. The Colombian Government deplores whatever might disturb the peace between the two nations and wishes for the disappearance of such danger. To act accordingly, this Government has addressed a note to other South American Governments inviting them to mediate, and has also given instructions to our Legation at Washington to work toward the realization of a joint action in behalf of peace, hoping that such friendly action will prove effectual. Please Your Excellency accept the expression of my most distinguished consideration.

MARCO FIDEL SUAREZ.

(Doc. No. 82.)

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Colombia.
Bogota:

The Mexican Government has the honor to express to the Colombian Government through Your Excellency's kindness its very deep appreciation of the desire to solve the difficulties existing between Mexico and the United States, to which purpose Your Excellency's Government has given instructions to its Washington

Representative to act in accordance with the Representatives of other sister Republics on this matter.

Please Your Excellency and your Government accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 83.)

TELEGRAM.

Rio Janeiro, June 25th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Brazilian Government received with heartfelt sorrow the messages of Your Excellency regarding the conflicts at the border of the United States of Mexico and the United States of America, which purport a painful armed contingency between two nations of the Continent. I am repeating our instructions given to the Brazilian Ambassador at Washington to keep us informed of the developments with all expediency, and offer Your Excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

LUIS MARTINEZ DE SOUZA, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 84).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:

The Mexican Government appreciates very deeply the expressions of sympathy contained in the note of that Government on account of actual conflict between this country and the United States, and its endeavors to obtain a favorable solution.

The Government and the people of Mexico love peace as a sure means to preserve true liberty and independence, and will not omit any effort to prevent such peace from being disturbed, provided no attempt is made to diminish the national sovereignty.

Our Representative at Washington is already instructed to act in accordance with the Representatives of sister Republics for a joint action.

Please Your Excellency and the Brazilian Government accept the assurances of my high consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 85).

TELEGRAM.

Port-au-Prince, June 2d, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Haitian Government realizes the close solidarity uniting all the Republics of America, and therefore it has ordered its Washington Minister to take part in any friendly action intended to prevent the catastrophe of a war between Mexico and the United States. We assume this attitude in view of the declarations made by Your Excellency, to whom I offer the expressions of my high consideration.

BORNO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 86).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti:

This Government thanks very sincerely the Haitian Government for its friendly action intended to prevent war between Mexico and the United States, and takes notice of the instructions given to its Washington Representative. Our Representative there is also instructed to act in full accordance with the Representatives of sister Republics, who have initiated a movement to preserve peace on the Continent.

Please accept for Your Excellency and the Haitian Government the assurances of my high consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary,

(Doc. No. 87).

TELEGRAM.

Lima (vía Salina Cruz), June 22d, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

I have taken up with the President of the Republic the message you honored me with, dated the 19th inst., wherein you were pleased to inform this Government of the lamentable state of strain into which have been dragged the relations between your Government and that of the United States. I have been instructed to express to Your Excellency that the Peruvian Government and the Peruvian people, whose wishes for American fraternity and union are well known, lament very sincerely the delicate situation you refer to, and wish me to express their eager wishes to avoid the great calamity of a war on American soil, which is bound to be a field of peace, justice and liberty, appealing to the good judgment of both Governments. It is more so to be expected, now that mankind regards with horror the bloodiest and most gigantic struggle ever seen by the centuries. I hope Your Excellency accepts the expressions of my most distinguished consideration.

RIVA AGUERO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 88).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lima, Peru:

My Government thanks the Government and people of Peru for the encouraging expressions found in Your Excellency's message regarding the present difficulties between Mexico and the United States. Your Excellency may assure the Peruvian people that Mexico wishes peace as the only means to achieve real freedom and greatness, and the Government and people of this country will make all possible efforts to keep it always, unless the National sovereignty is at stake.

Please Your Excellency and your Government accept the assurances of my high consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 89).

TELEGRAM.

Buenos Aires (vía Salina Cruz, Oax.), June 23d, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I had the honor to receive your message dated yesterday regarding disagreements between your Government and the United States of America, as a consequence of the happenings Your Excellency pleases to give an account of. The President of the Republic, whom I have informed as to the contents of Your Excellency's note, has followed with deep attention the developments now endangering the peace between those two countries, and I take note, with due interest, of the declarations made by Your Excellency, wishing a friendly solution for the above-mentioned lamentable incident. I greet Your Excellency with my most distinguished consideration.

JOSE LUIS MARATURE, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 90).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Buenos Aires:

My Government thanks very sincerely the tokens of interest and sympathy given by Your Excellency in your message just received regarding the conflict between Mexico and the United States. This Government and people love peace and wish to keep it undisturbed, provided the national sovereignty is kept in all its integrity.

Please Your Excellency and your Government accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 91).

TELEGRAM.

Santiago, Chile, June 23d, 1916.

General C. Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

This Government laments very deeply the difficult situation that

its sister country finds herself in, which threatens to bring on the calamitous consequences of a war on the continent. It is to be hoped that the prudence of the rulers of both friendly nations may save to mankind one more tragedy of horror and bloodshed.

S. OCHAGAVIA, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 92).

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Santiago de Chile:

My Government appreciates very sincerely the expressions of encouragement and sympathy transmitted by Your Excellency in your last message on account of the difficult situation in which Mexico finds herself regarding the United States. This Government and its people love peace and will always try to preserve it, provided the national sovereignty is not endangered in the present conflict.

Please Your Excellency and your Government to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary.

(Doc. No. 93).

TELEGRAM.

Montevideo, June 24th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

This Government acknowledges receipt of your message of the 19th inst., takes note of its contents, and lamenting the happenings referred, hopes for a conciliatory solution. May it please Your Excellency to accept the expressions of my high consideration.

MANUEL B. BOTERO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 94).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Montevideo:

My Government instructs me to express to Your Excellency our sincere appreciation of that Government's sympathy shown in your message of the 24th, regarding the actual difficulties between Mexico and the United States.

Please Your Excellency to accept the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 95).

TELEGRAM.

La Paz, Bolivia, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

This Government has been informed with great sorrow of the happenings Your Excellency was pleased to communicate in his courteous message of the 20th, and even though, as Your Excellency considers it, an armed conflict with the United States of America seems unavoidable, this Government entertains the hope that it may yet be possible to find friendly means of intelligence between the Governments of Mexico and the United States, which have proved to possess ideals of Pan-Americanism and have been at the head of democracy on the continent. This our wish, purporting the real feelings of friendship from the people and the Government of Bolivia, I offer to Your Excellency with the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

V. E. SANJINES, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 96).

TELEGRAM.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, La Paz, Bolivia:

Great was the satisfaction felt by the Chief of this Government when informed of Your Excellency's message kindly expressing the noble feelings of the Government and the people of Bolivia on account of the very difficult situation of the relations between Mexico and the United States. May it please Your Excellency to assure the

people and the Government of Bolivia that the people and the Government of Mexico love peace and will always try to keep it unless the national sovereignty is at stake.

Please accept for Your Excellency and Your Government the assurances of my highest consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 97).

TELEGRAM.

Managua, (vía Salina Cruz), June 25th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

Your Excellency's courteous message, dated the 20th inst., has informed my Government of the lamentable happenings occurred on the 17th between military forces of that Republic and United States troops. While we deplored this friction between two friendly nations, my Government entertains the hope that a favorable solution may still be found for the present troubles and the armed conflict that Your Excellency considers as unavoidable may be averted. I avail myself of this opportunity to offer Your Excellency the assurances of my greatest consideration.

DIEGO M. CHAMORRO, Secretary of Foreign of Nicaragua.

(Doc No. 98).

TELEGRAM.

Managua, Nicaragua, (vía Salina Cruz), June 25th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

With heartfelt regret was this Government informed of new happenings developed in that Republic between Mexican and North American forces, which Your Excellency is pleased to relate in your message of yesterday. Nicaragua laments these pitiful encounters and wishes very earnestly for a prompt settlement of the pending difficulties between the two friendly nations.

DIEGO M. CHAMORRO, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 99).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Managua, Nicaragua:

My Government instructs me to express to that Government, through Your Excellency's kindness, its sincere appreciation for the proofs of sympathy in behalf of the Government and the people of Mexico, and for the wishes you expressed for a favorable solution to the actual conflict between the United States and this country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 100).

**GENERAL CONSULATE OF VENEZUELA IN THE UNITED
STATES OF MEXICO.**

Mexico, June 26th, 1916.

I have been honored by the kind note of yours dated the 22d inst. (File No. 1901), in which you are pleased to insert the message addressed to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of my country, intending to inform the Government as well as the people of Venezuela regarding the last incident occurred at Carrizal between Mexican and American forces.

Allow me to renew to you my sincere wishes for the prompt disappearance of such state of strain in the diplomatic relations between both countries, and let me assure you that the Venezuela people, on account of the identity of ideals, race and the future itself, will not be indifferent toward the difficulties this sister nation goes through. Venezuela wishes that the sacred principles of Mexico's sovereignty be always respected, and she does not doubt that in case of a war, our brothers of Mexico will perform their duty today as in the past, always according to their glorious traditions. The Venezuela people do not forget their great liberator Bolivar, and through the ages we still possess the noble feelings of that great genius of America, always eager for liberty, for independence and for the nation's right to live, and so we wish for Mexico her aggrandizement, her progress and prosperity, trusting that her auto-

mony will be always respected, while she will arise full of energy, after these calamities, to walk again in the path leading to her great destinies.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my kindest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) E. URDAETA.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 101).

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM.

Mexico, June 27th, 1916.

To the Honorable Secretaries of Foreign Affairs of the Spanish American Countries:

Mr. Secretary:

On account of the present difficulties existing between Mexico and the United States, the Mexican Government considers it its duty to make known to the Spanish-American governments what are, in our opinion, the fundamental causes of this conflict and what the immediate motives. Our previous administrations deemed it right to promote the development of the country's resources by means of the preferential investment of foreign capital. During about thirty years the foreigners residing in Mexico, and their capital here invested, enjoyed protection and considerable security above national capital, which gradually created a privileged condition for foreigners. Later on, when the revolutionary movements began in 1919, foreigners located in Mexico tried to obtain the same ample protection as in times of peace, and because this protection could not be so amply given in the abnormal days of war, abundant claims started to spring up. Among them the United States claims were principal, all seeking to obtain in behalf of their nationals and their interests a protection which could not easily be afforded now as effectually as in times of peace. The American Government's position is that a Government is under the obligation to protect foreigners and their interests very effectually even during a war, and that if such protection cannot be obtained, the American Government has the right to extend it with its own forces.

Such position is entirely wrong, as it would mean that the foreign element, after having enjoyed a privileged condition in times of peace, will besides enjoy full protection in times of war, and it

is all opposed to the weak countries, since it would expose them to claims and threats against their sovereignty whenever they could not meet the demands of protection made by other countries. The custom of the citizens from strong nations to appeal always to the protection of their governments when they reside in weak countries and acquire property there, constitutes a serious social, economical and political problem, which places the weak countries in the case of reflecting and coming to an agreement upon the means to work for the equality of their citizens with the foreigners, restricting the acquisition of property by those who do not renounce the protection of their governments so far as those especial properties are concerned. During the actual Mexican Revolution of economic character, having for its main tendency to put our population on an equal footing, abolishing unlawful privileges, it has been clearly seen that there is an advantageous condition for all foreigners, and the necessity has been felt to put a stop to such inequality. Recently, on account of the natural difficulties met to pacify Mexico, and in relation to the great interests located in the northern part of the Republic, the demands of the American Government for the protection of its citizens and their interests increased in great numbers. On the other hand, the circumstances the United States go through at present on account of their elections, made the United States Democratic Government, which up to a short time ago had seemed to be friendly to the Mexican democratic movement, initiate a new policy of open hostility towards this government. Various transgressions committed on foreigners were mainly due to their imprudence, who, even during the war, are too eager to accumulate enormous profits, all in a minute, and insist in going on with their business and industries under the favorable conditions offered by the paralyzation of the national activities.

These transgressions began to create some difficulties between the United States and Mexico. Later on, raids made by bands of marauders into American territory for the deliberate purpose of creating a conflict between both countries, made the situation even more strenuous. The assault on the town of Columbus, New Mexico, gave occasion for the United States to believe that they could act on their own authority, without the consent of the Mexican Government, and pursue the outlaws within our territory. The Mexican Government protested against this action of the American Government, holding that within our territory we are the only authority that can employ force to pursue bands of that nature. However, the Mexican Government even condescended to make proposals to the American Administration for the reciprocal passing of troops across the border, as a means to protect it, but in no way did we consent to the American Government making of its own authority the pursuit of bandits in our country. Last March the United States Government sent into Mexican territory a body of infantry, cavalry and

artillery forces, with fifteen thousand men more or less. This expedition was made for the express purpose of following the bandits and nothing more; but by the number of soldiers which form it, the distance covered in their operations, over three hundred miles below the border, and by the technical divisions forming it, other purposes could be detected. The Mexican Government has protested, demanding its sovereignty to be respected, and has asked the immediate withdrawal of said forces, all in vain. The United States Government, on the other hand, instead of withdrawing its forces, has tried to send new expeditions across the Mexican border, under the same excuse, that bands of marauders must be followed. On this account Señor Carranza, Chief Executive, has made very serious representations to the American Government, demanding that Mexico's sovereignty be recognized and respected, and we have been compelled to declare our purpose to repulse by force any new invasions made by American troops into Mexican territory. Such is the situation existing between both countries. Mexico holds that her suzerainty must be respected and the American troops must not enter her territory without her consent, and asks for the immediate retirement of the American forces. The United States hold to have the right to protect their citizens by means of their own forces in foreign territory and refuse to withdraw them from Mexican soil. It is up to the sister nations of America to pass judgment on the situation.

It is an honor for me to assure Your Excellency of my respectful consideration.

AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 102).

TELEGRAM.

Tegucigalpa (vía Salina Cruz), June 27th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

Your important message regarding the actual situation between Mexico and the United States, at hand. Our Minister to Washington has now instructions to interpose the friendly mediation of Honduras jointly with the other nations of America. I entertain the hope that Your Excellency's Government and that of the United States will accept the friendly offices offered by Honduras towards keeping peace between those two nations.

MARIANO VAZQUEZ, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 103).

TELEGRAM.

Panama (vía Salina Cruz), June 27th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Government of Panama sees with profound regret the disagreeable situation created between Mexico and the United States, of which Your Excellency is pleased to give us an account, and we trust that the spirit of fraternity and the sound judgment of the leading men of both countries will prevent a breach in their relations. I pray Your Excellency to accept the testimonial of my distinguished consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, **E. T. LEFEVEIR.**

(Doc. No. 104).

TELEGRAM.

Santiago de Chile (vía Salina Cruz), June 28th, 1916.

To His Excellency C. Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

With the greatest interest have I taken note of the statement you are pleased to make regarding the reasons of the existing difficulty with the United States. Such situation creates here a state of unrest. My Government eagerly wishes for a peaceful solution of the conflict. I tender Your Excellency the expression of my feelings with all consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, **SILVESTRE OCHAGASIA.**

(Doc. No. 105).

TELEGRAM.

Bogotá (vía Salina Cruz), June 28th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to answer the important message of yesterday, wherein Your Excellency is pleased to inform the Colombian Government of the causes and motives which in your opinion have

produced the conflict between Mexico and the United States. The undersigned has presented said message to the President of this Republic, and by his instructions I have the honor to renew the expression of the good wishes inspiring this Government and its desire to co-operate in earnest to the mediation which in all probability the Representatives of the Latin-American countries are organizing in Washington to stop the continuance of a lamentable conflict so ruinous for the world and especially for the two countries concerned. Please Your Excellency accept the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, **MARCO FIDEL SUAREZ.**

(Doc. No. 106).

TELEGRAM.

Port-Au-Prince June, 29th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Haitian Government acknowledges receipt of Your Excellency's important message, and entertains the hope that a conflict will be avoided by the friendly action of the sister Republics. I pray Your Excellency to accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Secretary of State, **BORNO.**

(Doc. No 107).

TELEGRAM.

San Jose, Costa Rica, June 28th, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's message of the 26th inst., wherein Your Excellency is pleased to inform me of the reasons which, in the opinion of Your Excellency's Government, have originated the existing difficulties between Mexico and the United States. I renew to your Government the expression of our wishes for the peaceful settlement of the pending differences, and it is highly pleasing for me to be, with high consideration.

Your Excellency's servant,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, **JULIO ACOSTA.**

(Doc. No. 108).

TELEGRAM.

Havana, June 30th, 1916.

To His Excellency General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

I thank Your Excellency for the kind message of yesterday, and I take note of its interesting contents.

Secretary of State, **PABLO DESVERNINE.**

(Doc. No. 109).

TELEGRAM.

Caracas, Venezuela, July 13th, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the interesting reports furnished by Your Excellency in regard to the present strenuous situation between Mexico and the United States. The Venezuelan Government deplores such difficulties and is desirous to see in due time that a peaceful and satisfactory solution be found to the conflict. Please Your Excellency accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, **IGNACIO ANDRADE.**

(Doc. No. 110).

TELEGRAM.

Havana, Cuba, June 26, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to answer Your Excellency's kind message of yesterday, and to express in behalf of my Government that the attention thereby extended is duly appreciated, and we lament very deeply the situation created between the two great Republics of America. I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Secretary of State, **DESVERNINE.**

(Doc. No. 111).

TELEGRAM.

Guatemala, July 22d, 1916.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I had the honor to receive the kind message of Your Excellency dated the 27th of last month, wherein are expressed, for the information of my Government, what are in Your Excellency's opinion the fundamental causes and the immediate motives of the difficulties lately created between Mexico and the United States. The Guatemala Government, which fortunately keeps with the governments of both countries the most cordial and friendly relations, saw much to its sorrow the development of the happenings which were at the verge of breaking the harmony which, in my Government's opinion, should prevail among all the nations of the continent, and therefore nothing could have pleased us more than to learn later on that the Mexican Government as well as the United States Government, moved by noble and generous ideals, are on the way to reconcile their mutual interests in the manner which is more proper to brotherly and neighborly peoples. Thanking Your Excellency for the important information transmitted and expressing my wishes for the full success of the negotiations initiated under such good auspices, I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my high and distinguished consideration.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE.

(Doc. No. 112).

**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT, OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.**

Mexico, June 25th, 1916.

No. 113.—Honorable General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the "De Facto" Government of the Mexican Republic, Present:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that I have received instructions from the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States of America, to address myself to you, as the Secretary of State and of Foreign Relations of the "De Facto" Government of the Mexican Republic, which you are, in the following form:

The United States Government cannot give any other interpretation to the note delivered to the Secretary of State of the United States on the 24th of June by Mr. Arredondo, according to instructions of his Government, but that it purports a formal confession of an act which is deliberately hostile against the United States forces in Mexico, and of the intention to attack them without provocation whenever they move from their present positions in the pursuit of the objects for which they were sent down there, notwithstanding that these objects not only do not imply an intention lacking in friendship toward the Government and the people of Mexico, but on the contrary, are intended to help that Government, protecting it, as well as the territory and people of the United States, against irresponsible insurgent bands of marauding rebels.

I have instructions from my Government, therefore, to ask for the immediate release of the prisoners taken at the Carrizal encounter and the devolution of any property of the United States that may have been taken with them, and to inform you that the United States Government expects a prompt declaration of the Mexican Government as to the form in which the United States Government is wished to interpret the attitude Mexico has taken, and also that such declaration is expected to be made through the usual diplomatic channels, not by means of subordinate military commanders.

All of which I have the honor to inform you of, in compliance with my instructions, hoping you lend to it your attention at your earliest convenience.

With the assurances of my highest esteem, I have the honor to be, Mr. Secretary, Respectfully yours,

JAMES LINN RODGERS,

Special Representative of the American Government.

(Dec. No. 113).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, July 3d, 1916.

Agua Prieta, Mexico.

To the Secretary of War and Navy:

General E. Estrada, in telegram of yesterday, reports as follows: "Yesterday at 11 a. m. the national sailboat "Belisario Dominguez," bearing the Mexican flag on its mast, was boarded at the entrance of the bay, at Guaymas, by an officer and two American marines from one of the United States battleships lying in

the bay, who went aboard the sailboat and pried into her very minutely. As Captitan Thomas Sanchez made a protest, the Americans said they obeyed superior orders. After the investigation the American marines went back to their ship and the sail-boat entered the harbor. As soon as this General Headquarters was officially informed of the occurrence, the following radiogram was sent to the commanders of the United States battleships "Cleveland" and "Chattanooga:"

"This General Headquarters received information that yesterday at 11 a. m. a Mexican sailboat was pried into about to enter the harbor at Guaymas, by an officer and two marines of the United States Navy, which constitutes a transgression, since such measures are of the exclusive incumbence of the Mexican authorities, and on the other hand, since hostilities are not broken out yet between Mexico and the United States. This General Headquarters do not believe that said action has been taken by order of a United States Commander, for I dare not conceive a high officer so ignorant of his obligations, of the jurisdiction of a country with which his own is at peace, and so irresponsible as to initiate any acts of hostility without a previous breach of our countries' relations. In view of the above, this General Headquarters hope that the preposterous behavior of the marines referred to be disapproved by their superiors. I will thank you for your response, which I shall report to my Government. With all attention, General E. Estrada."

I am sending this previous transcription for your information.

GENERAL P. E. CALLES.

(Doc. No. 114).

TELEGRAM.

To the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

General Jacinto B. Treviño, Chief of the Northwestern Division, in Note No. 823, dated at Chihuahua on the 24th of June, informs this Department as follows:

"The Lieutenant Colonel of the Medical Corps, acting Director of the Military Hospital at this place, in Note No. 68 dated the 23d inst., says to this General Headquarters the following: "I have the honor to report to that superiority that eight officers and thirty-one privates have entered this hospital, who were wounded during the action at Carrizal and arrived from Villa Gonzalez. Of these numbers, making a total of 39 wounded, 33 per cent at

least show with full evidence, by the nature of their wounds, that they were shot with explosive bullets. I deem it my duty to inform you regarding it, for whatever resolution you may see fit to take."

I transmit this report to you for the same purpose, renewing to you the assurances of my consideration.

Constitution and Reforms. Mexico, June 5th, 1916.

(Signed) F. R. SERRANO, Assistant Sub-Secretary. By orders of the Sub-Secretary.

(Doc. No. 115).

A document having the National Coat of Arms above. Constitutional Army, Northeast Division, General Headquarters.—No. 544.—Bureau of Justice.—"Through your kindness I have the honor to inform my superiors regarding the investigations carried out on account of the military action at "El Carrizal," a point close to Villa Ahumada, of this State; by superior instructions Lieutenant-Colonel García Aguirre Olea, an engineer, was appointed as Special Judge, and Major Juan Jaso acted as Secretary. In order that the appointed judge could make the investigation ordered, we acquainted him with the report submitted to this General Headquarters on the 24th inst., by General Francisco González, commander of the boundary line. In this report it is stated that Lieutenant-Colonel Genovevo Rivas, Commander of the Second Regiment of the "Canales" Brigade, informs that on the 21st, at seven o'clock in the morning, an American force including from eighty to one hundred men appeared at Carrizal. By orders of General Felix U. Gomez, Lieutenant-Colonel Rivas went out to meet the commander of the American force, and in their interview the American officer said he and his men were after a band of outlaws, and when he was informed that there were no bandits around that region, he said he was going to Villa Ahumada to seek out a deserter. Rivas then said that the advance of the American troops would not be allowed in any other direction but northward, and the American commander replied that he did not care, for he had orders to go to Villa Ahumada. Lieutenant-Colonel Rivas reported the result of his interview to General Gomez, and this chief went out and met the American commander, who said he could not wait any longer and he would walk over the Mexican forces. Then both chiefs went back to their respective troops, and the American officer ordered his forces to advance in firing line against our forces, which included the second, third and fourth squadrons of the Second regiment. They were mounted and disposed in firing line when they were attacked by the American troops, the shooting lasting

for two hours, General Gomez being killed and Lieutenant-Colonel Genovevo Rivas taking his place. The number of Americans killed appears in the corresponding report; as to the men we captured, they were twenty-two at first, and then two more fell in our hands and were taken to the State Penitentiary building. I have the satisfaction to inform that Superior office that this report is confirmed by deposition of the prisoners, who say that Captain Lewis Morey tried to persuade Captain Boyd, commander of the expedition, not to commit the folly of advancing against the orders of the Mexican officers. However, I dare call your attention to the depositions of Lemuel H. Spilsbury (pages 4 and 5), George Stine (pages 6 to 8), William D. Gibson (pages 8 and 9), Hervey Lee (page 11), John Coleman (pages 12 to 14), and George Chaplin. These depositions establish very clearly the culpability of the American Captain Boyd, as well as the valor and endurance of the gallant Constitutionalist Army. I have the honor to tell you the above in compliance with the prescriptions of Chapters Second and Third of Article 23, of the Code on Penal Proceedings (Army section). Please make present to General Secretary of War and Navy my subordination and respect, and accept for yourself the assurance of my consideration and regard.

“Constitution and Reforms.—General Headquarters at Chihuahua, June 29th, 1916.

“(Signed) J. B. TREVIÑO, Chief Commander of the Northeastern Division. To the Assistant Secretary of War and Navy.”

(Doc. No. 116).

COPY.

“On the same date one of the prisoners was summoned to appear before the Judge, and having been requested to tell with all truthfulness all he knew and he was questioned about, he having said he would do so, he was asked his name and conditions; he said his name was Lemuel H. Spilsbury; being thirty years of age, married, born at Mesa City, Arizona, United States of America, a cattle dealer, and had joined the expedition under General Pershing as interpreter, a position he took up on the 17th or 18th of March this year, at a salary of \$5.00 per day, without food, provisions nor equipment; that this is the first time he has ever been a prisoner, and that he was captured at the Carrizal battle, between Constitutionalist forces of the Mexican and the American forces under Captain J. C. Boyd, which included some seventy-six men, he reckons, and in which battle he did not take part in active fighting. Questioned about the following points, he said that Lieutenant-Colonel Rivas first, and then General Gomez, of the

Mexican forces, had parleyed with Captain Body, trying to dissuade him from continuing his advance and advising him that they had orders to stop him: that they proposed to him to wait with his forces until the superior chiefs were consulted, to which he replied that he would not wait, and would pass anyway, complying with the orders he had received. The deposer said he himself had requested Captain Boyd to give heed to the indication made to him and to stop any movement. He said that the purpose of Boyd's forces—as Boyd had expressed it—was to go to Villa Ahumada in pursuit of a deserter who took some money with him and also to explore the direction taken by a band of outlaws which had been reported to him. The witness adds that Captain Lewis tried also to convince Captain Boyd of the desirability to stop the advance and avoid friction. The proceeding was called off on account of being rather late, and the deposer signed, as did the judge before me. The Special Judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Conrado García, Lem H. Spilsbury, the Secretary, Major Juan Lazo, Signatures.

Immediately afterward another of the prisoners was summoned to appear; being sworn to tell the truth through the interpreter appointed, he was asked his name and conditions, and said to be named Felix Page, born at Ballstone, Virginia, United States of America, being single, a soldier in the American Army, that is, a Sergeant. Asked about other points he desed as follows: That he was captured at the battle of Carrizal between the Mexican and the American forces, which encounter was due to the persistency of Captain Body, commander of the United States forces in advancing upon the Mexican troops: that before this battel, when both forces were close in view of each other, one of the chiefs of the Mexican troops came out to confer with Captain Boyd, and talked to him for about ten minutes, suspending the parley for some fifteen minutes; then came out General Gomez, who parleyed with the Captain for fifteen minutes more; right afterward both chiefs, that is, Captain Boyd and General Gomez, went back to their respective lines, and immediately the American commander ordered his forces to march on until they were placed some four hundred meters from the Mexican troops. Then General Gomez came out again to meet Captain Boyd at the center between the lines, Captain Boyd having also advanced out, both holding a third conference. As soon as they got back again to their own forces Captain Boyd ordered his troops to march on; the deposer does not know exactly the moment when the order of firing was given by Captain Boyd, for the shooting began on the left flank while the deposer belonged to the right flank. It is known that the objective point of that mobilization was Villa Ahumada, and the deposer says he heard Morey speak of a deserter whose search was intended, but he claims not to know at all the exact purpose of the movement. The de-

poser adds that he belonged to Morey's forces, which counted some 37 individuals, including officers, and was commanded by Captain Boyd, who had some forty-three men under him. It being late at the end of this deposition, the court adjourned for the present. This was read through the interpreter to the deposer, who ratified it and signed it with the Judge, before me. The Special Judge, Conrado García; the Secretary, Juan Lazo; Felix Page, Interpreter, Hunter Mackay.

(Doc. No. 117).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, July 3d, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador, Washington, D. C.:

By instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, please transmit in writing to the Honorable Secretary of State, Mr. Robert Lansing, the following note:

"Mr. Secretary: In regard to the notes dated the 20th and the 25th of last month of June, I have the honor to express to Your Excellency that the immediate release of the prisoners taken at El Carrizal was one more proof of the sincerity of this Government's wishes to reach a peaceful and satisfactory settlement for the present difficulties. This Government is very anxious to solve the present conflict, and any erroneous interpretation of its attitude would be unfair. It was the Mexican Government that was the first to propose to the United States the making of an agreement for the reciprocal passing of troops across the border. It was likewise the Mexican Government that was the first to suggest with all earnestness, during the conferences held at Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, a plan for the establishment of cantonments along the boundary line. This Government is now as well disposed as ever to look for an immediate solution of the two points which constitute the real causes of the conflict between the two countries, viz.: The American Government thinks, and with all reason, that the insecurity of the border is the cause of all our difficulties; and the Mexican Government for its part considers that the stay of American troops in our territory, apart from constituting an attack on Mexico's sovereignty, is the immediate reason of our conflicts. Therefore, the withdrawal of the American troops on the one hand and the protection of the border on the other are the two main problems, and their solution must constitute the direct scope of both Government's mutual efforts. The Mexican Govern-

ment is well disposed to consider in a prompt and practical way, and within a spirit of concord, the remedies that may be applied to the actual situation. Several Latin-American countries have offered us, to that effect, their friendly mediation, which we have accepted in principle. The Mexican Government, therefore, only desires to know whether the United States Government would be disposed to accept such mediation for that purpose, or of it still believes possible to achieve the same results by means of direct negotiations between both governments.

"In the meanwhile this Government intends to make all efforts it can to prevent further incidents from coming to complicate and aggravate the situation. At the same time this Government hopes that the American Government for its part will earnestly endeavor to avoid that fresh acts of their civil or military authorities along the border may create new complications. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) C. AGUILAR, Secretary of Foreign Affairs."

When you transmit the above to the Department of State, I request of you very specially, in behalf of the First Chief, to do all you can to impress on that Department the conviction of the Mexican Government's sincerity in all its pursuits and our eager wishes to find a peaceful solution to the present difficulties between countries which must needs maintain good relations.

I expect your report on result. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 118).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, July 7th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mexico,
D. F.:

I just received the following note:

"Washington, July 7th, 1916.

"Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Washington, D. C.:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note dated the 5th of July, 1916, wherein you insert a note addressed

to me by the Foreign Office of your Government, and I request of you to please transmit the following answer:

"Mr. Secretary: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your courteous note transmitted on the 4th inst., by Mr. Arredondo, wherein you refer to my notes of June 20th and 25th, and let me assure you of the sincere recognition of my Government for the frank declaration you make as to the difficulties along the boundary line, which, most unfortunately, have disturbed our relations, as also for the unreserved expression of your Government's wishes to reach a solution of these troubles upon a broad and friendly base. The same spirit of friendship and determination to continue the cordial relations between our countries moves my Government, and it wishes an immediate solution of the points of differences that have worried both governments for such a long time. It is specially gratifying to my Government that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico is disposed to consider in a prompt and practical manner, and within a spirit of concord, the remedies that can be applied to the existing conditions.

In reciprocity of such friendly desire, the United States Government is getting ready to exchange views as to a practical plan which will finally bring about the removal and will prevent the difficulties constituting the main source of controversy.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

I am, Sir, sincerely yours. (Signed) **ROBERT LANSING.**

Hearty greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 119).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, July 11th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

By orders of the First Chief please transmit the following note to the Honorable Secretary of State:

Mr. Secretary: I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's note dated the 7th inst., transmitted to me by our Confidential Agent over there, Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, and to say that I have received instructions from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, to suggest through your kindness to His Excellency President Wilson the idea of appointing three commissioners to represent each of our govern-

ments, to meet at any place to be designated by mutual agreement, in conferences which will give a solution to the question of the withdrawal of the American forces actually in Mexico, and also draft, discuss and approve a protocol or Agreement regarding reciprocal passing of forces of both countries into each other's territory as well as to investigate the origin of the raids of bandits occurring up to the present, so as to define responsibilities and definitively settle the pending difficulties or those which might arise between both countries from the same or any other motive, all negotiations of the commissioners being of course subject to the approval of both governments.

The Mexican Government intends that such conferences be held within a spirit of the frankest cordiality and vehemently wishing to reach a satisfactory settlement, honorable for both countries, with the understanding that if the United States Government accepts the suggestion made in this note, the main recommendation made by us to our commissioners will be to that effect.

The Mexican Government considers that this is the most effectual means to achieve the results sought for, and hopes that the United States Government is pleased to advise whether it accepts the suggestion, so as to carry it immediately into effect and send the names of the persons appointed as commissioners in behalf of the Mexican Government.

Please Your Excellency to accept on this account the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

AGUILAR.

I expect your report on results. Hearty greetings.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 120).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., July 10th, 1916.

Señor V. Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Mexico, D. F.:

CONFIDENTIAL.—I just had a talk with Mr. Polk, acting Secretary of State during Mr. Lansing's vacations, which will last one month, and Mr. Polk tells me you can freely appoint whom you may deem convenient to take part in an International Commission, either members of the Administration or not, for the idea is only to

exclude military people, and no matter whether your representatives are Government officials. That he believes that it is better to have three than two, this being a mere detail, and I also think three will be better, because there will be more opinions, and besides it gives us the advantage of possibly having a majority in such commission. I understand it means no trouble for you to appoint three. He says that you had better make the suggestion now with the understanding that it will be immediately accepted. That said commission, as I have told you before, will have for its object in the first place to discuss the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico and to draft a protocol on the crossing of troops of both countries into each other, and to investigate the origin of raids so as to establish responsibilities and settle other pending difficulties or those which may arise between both countries from the same or similar reasons. Mr. Polk expressed his sincere wish to end in friendly terms the pending difficulties, and just as Mr. Lansing had announced to me, he added that in Lansing's absence Fletcher would help him, this gentleman being designated as United States Ambassador to Mexico, and I was introduced to him to-day at the audience. Fletcher expressed the same desire. I think this to be the most proper opportunity we ever had to reach an agreement with this country, and we must, therefore, hasten to appoint said commissioners, since just by announcing their names our international situation will improve, the press having no further pretext to go on exciting public opinion. Please give me your instructions; I dare suggest the expediency of maintaining these negotiations in reserve, to prevent them from reaching the press and originating impertinent commentaries. I had forgotten to tell Mr. Polk that the commissioners should meet outside of Washington, but I believe that this detail is of no import and this Government will not insist on it. You might as well express this circumstance in your suggestion.

Respectfully,

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 121).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, July 28th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

I have just received the following note from the Secretary of State, which I transmit for the information of the Chief Executive:

"Washington, July 28th, 1916.

Mr. Eliseo Arredondo, Washington, D. C.:

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note dated the 12th of June, wherein you are pleased to transmit a note addressed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of your Government, and I request of you to be so kind as to transmit to said Government the following answer:

Mr. Secretary: I beg to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's note transmitted on July 12th by Mr. Arredondo, Confidential Agent of your Government at Washington, stating that Your Excellency has received instructions from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, to propose that each of our governments do appoint three commissioners, who will hold conferences at any place mutually agreed upon and will decide the questions connected with the retirement of the American troops now in Mexico, and the proposition and conclusion of a protocol or agreement regarding the reciprocal passing of troops across the border by forces of both countries, as well as to determine the origin of the raids, so as to ascertain the corresponding responsibility and to arrange in a definite way the pending difficulties or those which might arise in the future between the two countries as a result of the same or similar reasons, all of which will be subject to the approval of both governments.

In response I have the honor to state that I reported to the President Your Excellency's note and received instructions from him to inform Your Excellency that the United States Government is willing to accept the proposition made by the Mexican authorities, in the same spirit of frank cordiality in which it was made. This Government believes and suggests, though, that the faculties of the proposed Commission should be broader, in such a way that if, fortunately, should a solution satisfactory to both governments be reached regarding the questions mentioned in Your Excellency's note, the Commission might also consider any other matters the friendly arrangement of which would tend to improve the relations between the two countries, with the understanding that the recommendations that the commissioners might make, would not obligate the respective governments until formally accepted by them. If this suggestion were found fit by Your Excellency's Government, I have the honor to state that this Government will immediately proceed to appoint its commissioners and to determine, after a previous consultation with Your Excellency's Government, the date and place for the meetings, as well as other details of the proposed conferences.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.—(Signed) Frank L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State.
Sincerely yours, Frank L. Polk.

Hearty Greetings,

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 122).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, August 2d, 1916.

Licenciado Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

By orders of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power, please present to the Honorable Secretary of State of the American Government the following note:

“Mr. Secretary: In due answer to the kind note of the State Department, dated the 28th of last July, I have the honor to express to Your Excellency that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, congratulates himself on the praiseworthy efforts of the American Governments to reach a solution to the existing difficulties between both countries, and to this purpose, considering of the greatest importance the prompt settlement of the points which have originated the existing difficulties between the United States and Mexico to which the note of the Mexican Government dated the 4th of July refers, it has deemed convenient to appoint at once a Commission formed by Messrs. Licenciado Luis Cabrera, Engineer Ignacio Bonillas and Engineer Alberto J. Pani, to whom instructions are transmitted with the express recommendation to devote their preferent attention to the adjustment of the points alluded to in the note of this Department.

Licenciado Eliseo Arredondo is authorized to agree with the State Department as to the details of place and date at which the Commissioners of the Mexican Government must meet the Commissioners of the American Government, to start their work. I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed) C. Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs. With all regard.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 123).

INSTRUCTIONS given by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, to the Diplomatic Commission formed by Licenciado Luis Cabrera and the Engineers Ignacio Bonillas and Alberto J. Pani.

The Mexican Diplomatic Commission will meet the United States Commission at the place mutually agreed upon by the State Department of the American Government and Licenciado Eliseo Arredondo, on the date they determine.

The object of the conferences will be to discuss, mainly, the withdrawal of the American forces now in Mexico, and, as closely connected thereto, the making of an Agreement for the protection of the border, on the American side as well as on the Mexican side, against the raids of armed bands of outlaws.

In the making of this Agreement they may go as far as approving a protocol or Agreement for the cantonment of troops along the boundary line in the respective territories and for the reciprocal sending of forces from either country into each other in pursuit of bandits.

The Commission may also proceed to investigate into the origin of the incursions made up to the present, so as to determine the responsibilities and to be able to prevent in the future the repetition of such raids.

All the resolutions taken by the Commission on the points mentioned above must be submitted by wire to the Provisional Executive, without whose approval such resolutions cannot be signed nor considered as definitively accepted by the Mexican Government.

When the points contained in the previous instructions have been entirely solved, and when the American troops have abandoned the national territory, not before then, shall the Commission be able to discuss any other points the American Commission may wish to submit, and the said Mexican Commission will then be able to propose, for its own part, matters that it may deem convenient to discuss in order to establish a more frank cordiality in the relations between both countries. In this case the delegates, before opening a discussion on any of the points not included in these instructions, must submit the suggested points to the consideration of the First Chieftainship, so that this authority, after studying and deciding whether such topics should be discussed, may extend its express authorization for the Commission to discuss them, or

modify the personnel of the Commission according to the conveniences.

Constitution and Reforms.—Mexico, August 3d, 1916.

C. AGUILAR.

Messrs. Licenciado Luis Cabrera, and Engineers Ignacio Bonillas and Alberto J. Pani.

(Doc. No. 124).

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, considering your merits and worth, has deemed it proper to appoint you President of the Diplomatic Commission formed by Messrs. Engineers Ignacio Bonillas and Alberto J. Pani, and which must go to Washington to discuss with the Commission appointed by the American Government the difficulties arisen between Mexico and the United States on account of the Columbus incident, as well as other points which the American Commission may submit to your consideration, and those that the Mexican Diplomatic Commission may deem convenient to submit in order to establish the frankest cordiality in the relations between both countries; with the understanding that the agreements and resolutions that may be taken by the commissioners must be previously submitted to the approval of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army and ratified by him, in conformity with the special and express instructions given you by orders of the First Chief.

You are hereby informed of it and we hope that you will please perform the commission intrusted to you with the zeal and patriotism which are known to abound in you.

Constitution and Reforms.—Mexico, August 3d, 1916.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, C. AGUILAR.

Licenciado Luis Cabrera, Secretary of Finances, City.

(Doc. No. 125).

TELEGRAM.

New York, September 4th, 1916.

Today, after customary visits of courtesy, a preliminary meeting of the Joint Commission took place at Baltimore Hotel.

During lunch offered by the State Secretary, Mr. Lansing gave a toast to welcome the Commissioners, expressing the wishes of the Government and the people of the United States that the difficulties be favorably settled, saying that the responsibility now fell in the hands of said Commissioners and he trusted that all of them were moved by their patriotism and would make all efforts to reach that finality, for the benefit of both countries. I answered in a few words to the Secretary's toast, expressing thanks for the courtesies extended to the Mexican Commissioners and expressing the same wishes that the conferences may have full success. Then Mr. Lane, Chairman of the American Commission, gave a toast, answered by Mr. Cabrera, which ended the affair. Great cordiality reigned. I am sending by mail copy of their toasts and extract of ours. Tomorrow at 9 a. m. the Commissioners will leave on board the Presidential yacht Mayflower toward New London, Connecticut, on the coast of New England, where the conferences will take place. Ambassador Fletcher and myself will accompany the Commissioners, and then we shall come back next day.

Hearty Greetings.

ARREDONDO.

(Doc. No. 126).

TELEGRAM.

Griswold Hotel, New London, Conn., September 6th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Mexico:

Licenciado Cabrera acting as Chairman, the first official session of conferences was held today. Delegates showed each other their credentials and exchanged customary courtesies. They agreed to send Messrs. President Wilson and First Chief Carranza greetings. After distribution of matters for next session, coming Friday, great cordiality, all unconventional, reigned at the meeting.

Hearty Greetings.

JUAN B. ROJO.

(Doc. No. 127).

TELEGRAM.

New London, Conn., September 8th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Mexico:

President Wilson answered the commissioners with the following message:

"I beg to express to the United American and Mexican Commission the highly pleasing impression produced on me by the telegram I have just received. Allow me to express my profound interest for the works of friendship and co-operation to the expressed purpose, and I hope and trust that the deliberations will be crowned with happy success, which will strengthen the friendship between the two nations.

(Signed) **WOODROW WILSON.**"

(Doc. No. 128).

TELEGRAM.

New London, Conn., September 9th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Mexico:

I request of you to please inform the First Chief of the following: We have started to discuss measures for the protection of the border. Of course we may not arrive at any conclusion before getting more into the minds of the American commissioners. I intend giving no formality in writing to any proposition before knowing exactly whether the bases upon which we shall start a formal discussion are approved. Today's session was devoted to studying protective measures I had thought of before. We shall daily report facts.

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 129).

TELEGRAM.

New London, September 12th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

I have deemed it convenient to allow the first few meetings to be devoted rather to an exchange of views and information regarding our situation. Our sessions have taken place in the midst of all frankness, cordiality, seriousness and discretion. Have continued discussing withdrawal of troops and protection of border. Yesterday afternoon all we did was to talk of the progress achieved by our Government regarding controlling the country. I consider it possible to reach the following conclusions: First, the effectual withdrawal of troops without express agreement; second, agreement for the establishment of military cantonments along the border after the American forces have left Mexico, we placing there the greatest number of men we can avail; third, to make a treaty for the mutual protection of the border, allowing the military chiefs of both countries to see to details; fourth, conclusion of the initiated agreement for join action against the bands of raiders. I did not want to make concrete proposals regarding these points before knowing exactly if the American Commissioners would have no objection to make to them right now. We have refused to give any report to the press in order to prevent the papers from handling the case. Of course enemy papers of this country, like the *Herald* and the *Sun*, are publishing riddles and constantly say that we are discussing a loan for the Government and the railroads, and many other things, going so far as to publish alleged paragraphs quoted from our imaginary instructions on the loan question.

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 130).

TELEGRAM.

New London, September 18th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

By decision of the Commissioners I have the honor to inform you as follows:

We continued today our conferences rather with a view to obtain still more information, because the American delegates do

not know enough of our situation. We expect soon to reopen the concrete discussion of the American troops' withdrawal and the protection of the border. It seems that the American Commissioners are receiving a great number of claims from American citizens residing in Mexico, but this offers us chances to explain to them some matters they know not, instead of hindering our work. The eternal conspirers of San Antonio and El Paso, and the so-called "Partido Salvador Legalista" (Legitimist Salvation Party) probably are also addressing themselves to the Commission under the pretext of protesting against the loan they believe we are negotiating. We confined ourselves to prove that there is no such party except in the United States. Not one word has been said regarding loan in our conferences.

Secretary, **ROJO**.

(Doc. No. 131).

TELEGRAM.

New London, September 9th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Commissioners communicate the following: As it was to be expected, efforts are now being made to discuss in our sessions matters not directly connected with the withdrawal of troops and the border protection. The Chihuahua incident places us, of course, in conditions not to be able right now to reach any practical result regarding retirement of troops, and therefore we have found no inconvenience to let them take their time. The American commissioners have been receiving a great number of claims from Americans residing in Mexico or holding property down there. The American Commission gives them heed and we cannot prevent it, but we for our part have refused to allow in our meetings any foreign element. New York press is using all possible efforts to create difficulties by exciting both delegations to discuss matters not connected with the withdrawal of troops and the protection of the frontier. It does not matter, though. The last decree on mines and the other on banks have created a great sensation, but it does not bother us. We consider that it will be impossible to submit a concrete project for the establishment of cantonments and for the guarding of the border, before a week from now. In the meanwhile we deem advisable that General Treviño would invite General Pershing to a conference to discuss in concrete the military aspect of the withdrawal of troops, anticipating the beginning of this movement. Greetings.

ROJO, Secretary.

Mexico, September 22d, 1916.

TELEGRAM.

(Doc. No. 132).

Licenciado Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation at Griswold Hotel, New London:

Your message of the 20th at hand. First Chief does not deem convenient to have General Treviño discuss matter of border protection before Pershing is ordered to leave Mexico. Hearty Greetings,

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 133).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

TWELFTH MEETING.

Griswold Hotel, New London, Conn., Friday, September 22d, 1916.

The Commission met at 10:15 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman, and all the Commissioners being present except Mr. Pani. After the American Commissioners submitted various reports on conditions of the Mexican Republic, the Commission started to discuss the order of the conferences.

The session adjourned at 1:15 p. m. and reopened at 3:30. The American Commissioners submitted to the Mexican delegates the following communication:

"September 22d, 1916.—MEMORANDUM submitted to the Mexican Commissioners by the American Commissioners.—Honorable Luis Cabrera, Honorable Ignacio Bonillas, Honorable Alberto J. Pani—Sirs: We beg to ask you if the following would be considered as a satisfactory programme for the Joint Commission: While the military details of a plan of mutual protection of the border, which we have drafted, are being studied at Washington, we pass to consider these three points: First, protection of lives and properties of foreigners in Mexico; second, creation of a Claim Commission; third, religious freedom. It is understood among us that our efforts would be directed to reach a sort of agreement on these questions, considered by the American Commissioners as being of an importance certainly no less great than the matter of safeguarding the frontier, and also that the matter of safeguarding the frontier

will not depend in any way on the resolution we might reach regarding the three above-mentioned points. We have the honor to subscribe ourselves, Yours very truly (Signed), Franklin K. Lane, George Gray, John R. Mott."

It was decided to hold the next session on Monday, September 25th, at ten o'clock a. m.

The meeting was adjourned at half-past four.

(Doc. No. 134).

**UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.
THIRTEENTH SESSION.**

Monday, September 25th, 1916.

Griswold Hotel, New London, Conn., U. S. A.

The Commission met at 10:35 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman. The morning session was devoted to continuing the exposition submitted by the American delegates regarding domestic conditions of Mexico.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p. m. and reopened at 3:10 p. m., still discussing the same exposition of Mexican conditions, especially regarding the legal situation of foreigners.

Also was discussed the programme for the work of this week.

It was decided to determine as soon as possible the place where the Commission may conclude its sessions at the end of the week, and wishing to have time to prepare the change of place, the Commission adjourned until Monday next week in the morning. The Commission will meet on Tuesday, 26th, at 10 a. m. The meeting was called off at 5:15 p. m.

(Doc. No. 135).

**UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.
THIRTEENTH SESSION.**

Tuesday, September 26th, 1916.

Griswold Hotel, New London, Conn.

The Commission assembled at 10:30 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman. The whole morning was devoted to reviewing the data submitted regarding raids across border. It was decided that the next session will take place Wednesday, 27th, at 10 a. m. The meeting was called off at 12:10 p. m.

(Doc. No. 136).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, September 27th, 1916.

Licenciado Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation, Commission, Griswold:

Your message of the 23d at hand. It seems strange to me that in over two weeks of meeting with American Delegation no solution has been reached regarding withdrawal of the United States forces now in Mexican territory, and I remind you that, according to the instructions you as well as your fellow commissioners have received, you shall not be able to discuss any other subject at the conferences until the retirement of American troops and the protection of the border are settled. Greetings,

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 137).

**JOINT MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION,
SEVENTEENTH SESSION.**

Monday, October 2d, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:25 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman. The discussion dealt in the morning with the necessary measures to obtain an effectual protection of the frontier. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 until the following Tuesday, October 3d, at 10 a. m.

(Doc. No. 138).

TELEGRAM.

Atlantic City, October 2d, 1916.

(Vía Galveston).

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Conferences were renewed to-day openly entering into discussion of the withdrawal of troops and protection of the border. The first

point is already accepted, and just an opportune moment is expected to order the retreat of those troops. The attitude of the American delegates is that the forces will retire as soon as we arrange a plan for the protection of the border. Attack on Chihuahua hindered our endeavors, because Americans consider it the result of our forces' inefficiency to harass Villa. American situation on the eve of elections also prevents earlier solution, for it is considered that the situation of the punitive expedition would be scorned at if after being in Mexico for six months and not succeeding in capturing Villa, the expedition left the country when Villa re-appears for the first time. In tomorrow's session we shall discuss a system for protecting the frontier according to proposals the Mexican Government had made some time ago. Perhaps the American delegates will present a different project. We consider it necessary that the press stop publishing articles against the United States. Also indispensable not to give news regarding our negotiations until practical results are achieved. Hearty greetings,

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 139).

**UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.
EIGHTEENTH SESSION.**

Tuesday, October 3d, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:45 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

The entire morning was devoted to discussing the order of matters belonging to the Commission, Doctor Mott submitting to the Mexican Commissioners the following Memorandum:

PROPOSAL submitted by Mr. John R. Mott, in behalf of the American Commissioners, to the Mexican Commissioners, on October 3d, 1916:

We understand that the question of the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico and the question of protecting the border must receive pre-eminent attention on the part of the Commission. By pre-eminent we mean that such questions must be first in time. We understand that the field of action of the Commission is not restricted to treating the matters of retiring the troops and keeping the frontier, but that the Mexican Commissioners as well as the American delegates are duly authorized to discuss, for the same constructive purpose, any other points which may be submitted

to their study by the Americans themselves, and which "shall contribute to establish the frankest cordiality in the relations between both countries." It remains understood now among the Mexican and the American members of the Commission, that the following points will receive such attention as matters which may help to establish the frankest cordiality in the relations between both countries: (1) Protection of lives and properties of foreigners in Mexico. (2) The problem of settling the foreign claims. (3) Religious freedom. (4) To prevent the causes which may lead to misunderstandings, friction and conflict between the American and the Mexican peoples. The practical constructive recommendations to which this Commission may arrive in these matters will be submitted to the "De Facto" Government of Mexico and to the American Government for the same purpose, and in the same way will be submitted the propositions for the withdrawal of troops and the protection of the border."

The Commisison adjourned at 1:15 p. m. for next Wednesday, October 4th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

(Doc. No. 140).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

TWENTIETH SESSION.

Thursday, October 5th, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:30 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

After the presentation of some documents and notes, the Mexican Commissioners submitted a project of agreement entitled: "First Agreement," regarding the retirement of the American troops from Mexican territory. The rest of the morning was devoted to discussing the programe of the Commission's works, based on Dr. Mott's proposition of October 3d. The session adjourned at 1:30 p. m. The Commission met again at 4 p. m. and engaged in discussing these two propositions. Secretary Cabrera agreed to submit a modified proposal at the next meeting.

It was resolved that the next session would be called for Friday, October 6th, at 10 a. m.

The session adjourned at 5:15 p. m.

(Doc. No. 141).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.
TWENTY-FIRST SESSION.

Friday, October 6th, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission got together at 10:45 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

Secretary Cabrera presented the answer of the Mexican Commissioners to the communiqué addressed by the American Delegates on September 22d, and to Dr. Mott's Memorandum dated October 3d.

The text of the communiqué is as follows:

"Honorable Franklin K. Lane, Honorable George Gray, Honorable John R. Mott—Sirs: In response to your communiqué of September 22d and in regard to the point discussed yesterday in our session, we beg to say that the Mexican Delegates, after a thorough consideration of the text and the spirit of their credentials, according to the character of their instructions, and being sure of thus interpreting rightly the mind of the Mexican people, they believe that the following is the programme to which our deliberations should be subjected:

PROGRAME OF THE JOINT COMMISSION.—First—with-
drawal of the American forces from the Mexican territory; second—
safeguarding and vigilance of the border; third—agreement for
the pursuit of outlaws across the boundary line. If we should
fortunately arrive at a satisfactory solution for both governments
regarding the previous topics, the Mexican Commissioners agree to
start then the discussion of any other points the American Delegates
may deem fit to submit to our consideration, and which points being
of an international nature, may contribute to establish the frankest
cordiality in the relations between both countries.

However, while the American forces remain in Mexican territory,
the Mexican delegates must not discuss any subject not directly
connected with the border situation.

It is understood that the conclusions we may arrive at in the
discussion of points I, II and III, will not be subordinated in their
effects to the outcome of our discussions regarding any other
subjects.

We avail this opportunity to renew you, gentlemen, our most
distinguished consideration.

(Signed) Luis Cabrera, I. Bonillas, Alberto J. Pani, Juan B.
Rojo, Secretary.

This answer was studied and discussed until the meeting

adjourned at 1:30 p. m. The Commission met again at 3 p. m.

Secretary Cabrera submitted on behalf of the Mexican Commissioners three documents designed as bases for discussion, viz.:

(1) Points under discussion regarding the withdrawal of troops;
(2) Points under discussion regarding protection of the frontier;

(3) Points under discussion regarding pursuit of bandits.

It was resolved to meet next Monday, October 9th, at 3:30 p.m.

The session adjourned at 3:55 p. m.

(Doc. No. 142).

I.

**POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL
OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS.**

The American forces shall retire from Mexican territory as soon as the Chihuahua border line is made secure according to the general arrangement to be made for the protection of the frontier.

In order to facilitate the withdrawal of the American forces, the Military Commander of Chihuahua, acting in accordance with General Pershing, shall protect the thoroughfares which may be necessary in order to prevent the marauders from approaching the boundary line.

Atlantic City, October 6th, 1916.

(Doc. No. 143).

II.

**POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION REGARDING PROTECTION
OF THE BORDER LINE.**

Both countries agree to lend each other their mutual co-operation in order to protect the boundary line and to prevent raids of outlaws from either side of the border into the other.

The safeguarding of the boundary line shall be made by forces of both countries, each force within its own territory.

To this effect the United States will keep along the boundary a minimum of so many men of the regular United States forces, and Mexico will keep so many men of the regular forces of the Constitutionalist Army.

The forces intrusted with the vigilance of the boundary line

will be in each country under the exclusive orders of the Military Commander of the border.

The forces shall be distributed by common accord between the military commanders of the Mexican and the American frontier, taking in consideration the field conditions and the facilities or difficulties of the existing means of communication in each zone.

Any essential change in the distribution of forces must be made by common agreement between both commanders, or at least, in case of emergency, with previous advice from one commander to the other.

In order to insure the swift movement of forces along the boundary line, both countries accept the obligation to lend means of transportation that lie in their power.

Atlantic City, October 6th, 1916.

(Doc. No. 144).

III.

POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION REGARDING PURSUIT OF BANDITS.

It is agreed that the regular forces of the Governments of both countries may go across the boundary line for the purpose of following armed bands which may have entered from one side into the other, committing outrages on foreign soil and then escaping across the border line.

This action can only be effected during the three days following the date in which the outlaws escaped across the line, and always giving advice of the action to the military commander of the other country's frontier.

The forces sent across the border must include only cavalry, with their full equipment, and they may also carry machine guns and "Rexer" rifles.

The pursuit forces cannot remain in foreign territory for longer than fifteen days, nor go beyond a distance of 80 kilometers from the boundary line, without special permission from the government of the country where the pursuit takes place.

The government of the country where the pursuit is made must co-operate with the government of the other country in the best possible way whenever an agreement can be obtained between both commanders.

The pursuit made in foreign territory by forces of either country shall cease as soon as the forces of the other country assume themselves the harassment.

Both countries shall endeavor in all earnestness to prevent new

raids of marauders, but in the unfortunate case of such raids taking place, they will not be a cause for a war, but will entitle them to the use of the mutual concession stipulated in this Agreement and the respective indemnities for the damages suffered.

The punishment of the outlaws made prisoners will always be effected by the military authorities who captured them.

The responsibility for abuses committed by the pursuing forces in the other country will only mean the retirement of the guilty and the payment of the respective indemnity.

The responsibility for clashes between pursuing forces and civil elements or forces of the country where the pursuit takes place, which might occur by mistake, imprudence or the abuse of superior forces, shall only fall on the governments if they should refuse to do justice.

Atlantic City, October 6th, 1916.

(Doc. No. 145).

Atlantic City, October 7th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar:

During this week no great advances were achieved on account of the insistency shown by the American delegates to make us agree to discuss points connected with the life and property of foreigners in Mexico as soon as a satisfactory solution were reached in regard to border matters. In today's session we communicated to them in writing that topics other than those of the frontier could not be discussed except after the withdrawal of the forces. The situation has been very delicate; the American delegates went so far as declaring that perhaps they had not accepted their commission as delegates had they known that the discussion was to be restricted to frontier matters, and that we would not talk over more transcendental affairs until the troops withdrew. Next week we are still going to have this point threatening the succes of our conferences, but then we shall begin openly to discuss the forces' retirement. The following is the programme of points I am going to deal with, such as we have submitted it. I am transmitting it textually, so that between Saturday, Sunday and Monday you may have the kindness to make the objections you may deem pertinent, so that we shall avoid touching points the First Chief is not in accordance with. First—Discussion of the withdrawal of forces. The American forces will leave the Mexican territory according to the general arrangement that will be made for the protection of the boundary line. In order to facilitate the retirement of the American forces, the Military Commander of Chihuahua,

acting in accordance with Gen. Pershing, will protect the thoroughfares that may be necessary to guard to prevent the maruders from approaching the border. Second.—Discussion on protection of the boundary line. Both countries agree to co-operate in common accord for the protection of the boundary line in order to avoid the irruption of outlaws from one side into the other. The safeguarding of the border is to be made by forces of the respective countries, each force within its own territory. To that effect the United States will maintain along the border a minimum of **so many men** of the regular forces of the American Army, and Mexico will maintain a minimum of **so many men**. The forces charged with the vigilance of the boundary line will be in each country under the command of a Military Chief, and are to be distributed along the border as jointly decided by the military commanders on both sides of the line, taking in consideration the topographic conditions of the field and the facilities or difficulties of access to each zone. Any changes of importance in the distribution of the forces will take place by common accord between both commanders, or at least, in emergency cases, the moving commander previously informing the other, so as to secure a swift movement of troops along the line. Both countries are under the obligation to facilitate the means of transportation available. Third.—Discussion on the pursuit of outlaws. It shall be agreed that regular forces of both countries may go across the boundary line for the purpose of following armed bands which may have entered from one side into the other, committing outrages in foreign country and then escaping back across the border. The crossing of the line will only be made within the three days following that in which the outlaws fled across the line, and always giving previous advice to the military commander of the forces of the other country. The forces crossing the frontier must consist only cavalry troops with their corresponding equipment, and they will have the right to carry also machine guns and “Rexer” rifles. The forces effecting the pursuit shall not remain in foreign territory for any longer than fifteen days, nor may they go any further than eighty kilometers from the boundary line without special permission of the other government. The country where the pursuit is started, shall co-operate with the other country in the best possible way if a previous agreement is reached between the two commanders. The pursuit carried out in foreign territory will end as soon as the forces of that country assume for themselves the harassment of the bandits. Both countries shall make all earnest efforts to prevent raids of marauding bands, but in case of such raids unfortunately occurring they will not be considered as a cause for war, for both governments will act in accordance with the present Agreement and an indemnity will be paid for the damages the raid may have caused. The punishment of the prisoners taken from

the band of outlaws, will be made by the military authority who captured them. The responsibility for the abuses committed by the forces making the pursuit in a foreign country, will only mean the retirement of the abusing forces and the paying of the corresponding indemnity. The responsibility for any clash between forces making the pursuit and civilians or armed men of the country where the pursuit is made, which may occur by mistake, imprudence or transgressions committed by certain forces, will mean no responsibility for either country except when it refuses to act in full justice. Hearty greetings,

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 146).

TELEGRAM.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, President Mexican Delegation, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey:

First Chief decides that you confine yourself to discuss with Americans the withdrawal of their forces from our territory and the form in which the Constitutionalist troops shall occupy the territory actually occupied by General Pershing's column. After the withdrawal of the American forces from our territory, you may discuss with the United States Commissioners the other points stated in your message of the 7th inst. Hearty greetings,

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 147.)

October 10th, 1916.

MR. LANE'S MEMORANDUM.

What objections would you oppose to the adoption of the following plan?

First.—The frontier shall be protected on each side without any zone of pursuit, holding in consequence each nation responsible for her own frontier. We do not believe in the plan of a zone of pursuit, because it implies the danger of bringing in greater difficulties on both sides of the line. Furthermore, we think that there is just one way which is consistent with the dignity and the sovereignty of both countries. The United States and Mexico

must assume all responsibility to prevent their citizens from effecting raids in foreign territory, and if such happenings should unfortunately occur, the Governments of the United States and Mexico must be left free to take the measures they may deem convenient in order to obtain a reparation for such occurrences.

Second.—The military commanders of the border shall get in accord in order to make a co-operative effort toward the suppression of disturbances along the border, using these methods:

(a) Full exchange of information;

(b) Mutual permission to use the railroads in each other's territory to carry a nation's troops from one point of her territory into another of her own territory.

Third.—Mutual explorations within a distance of ten miles on each side of the frontier, provided the corresponding authorization is given in writing, and in no case being executive within 10 miles from any town having more than one hundred inhabitants.

Fourth.—The United States troops now in Mexico shall be withdrawn to the frontier gradually as it is made more secure.

Which of these proposals would be more satisfactory for you?

(a) That our troops be totally withdrawn from Mexico by the 15th of March, 1917, provided by that time no assault has taken place within 100 miles of our actual positions in Chihuahua.

(b) That we retire gradually, our first step back on the frontier being given 90 days from the date of this agreement, up to the city of Colonia Dublan, provided within said ninety days no assault takes place within ten miles from our actual positions at the Valle, and within another ninety days or before we shall totally retire from Mexico via El Paso and Southwestern, or in any other way we may choose.

(Doc. No. 148.)

OBJECTIONS TO MR. LANE'S MEMORANDUM.

I.

Mr. Lane's Memorandum in its first point establishes a special system to solve the Mexican question totally different from the one proposed by the Mexican Delegates. Mr. Lane's system consists in leaving to each country the responsibility of its acts, and, consequently, to have constantly pending over Mexico the threat of new expeditions or of a complete intervention in case of any new raids on the border.

The system proposed by the Mexican Delegates consists in preventing the raids by means of effectual protection of the border;

in pursuing the outlaws whenever said raids take place, and, above all, in restricting the consequences of any such act as that of Columbus which might unfortunately occur, assuring that such consequences do not fall upon the countries nor spread so as to create a general conflict, but that such acts be considered as the transgressions of outlaws, purporting responsibilities of a merely local nature.

The project of leaving the protection of the frontier to each of the countries under its own responsibility, would mean to leave the door open for future conflicts.

Theoretically the United States and Mexico should assume all the responsibility so far as preventing their citizens from doing wrong to the other country; but practically that responsibility must be shared by both and the border must be considered as one sole thing where exist abnormal conditions which are common to both countries.

In a greater majority of the cases even it is almost impossible to know whether the raids are effected by men from one territory stepping over the boundary into the other to commit outrages, or if such acts are performed by individuals of the same country where the raid is made, and who merely seek refuge or escape into the other side of the border.

If these unfortunate happenings should occur again, the governments of the United States and Mexico should not be subject to the eventualities of new complications, but they must reach an agreement to prevent the acts of irresponsible outlaws from dragging both nations into a conflict, because it would be rather preposterous that two countries should be exposed to serious conflicts by acts of mere individuals, performed perhaps for the sole purpose of creating such difficulties.

II.

The second point of Mr. Lane's Memorandum meets no objection on the part of the Mexican Delegates, but does not seem sufficient to prevent any case similar to that of Columbus from being a fresh cause of complications.

In the opinion of the Mexican Delegates, not only should the border be effectually made secure, but we should likewise agree as to the form in which we may pursue the marauders and define the consequences that such act might bring for both countries.

III.

As to the third point of Mr. Lane's Memorandum, its acceptance is entirely impossible for the Mexican Delegates.

The retirement of the American troops could not be delayed as late as March 15th, 1917.

The Mexican Delegates could not accept the delay of the expedition's retirement for any longer than the time strictly necessary for the Mexican troops to be able to occupy the territory now occupied by General Pershing's troops.

The gradual retirement of the troops is only justified so far as such delay may be needed for the protection of the rear-guard and to afford securities to the retiring troops.

The Mexican Delegates cannot admit that withdrawal of the troops be made to depend on the possibility of a new assault or incident occurring within a certain zone, because that would be to place the withdrawal of the troops at the mercy of happenings which do not depend on the Mexican nor the American government, but merely on the very persons who have a certain interest in delaying the withdrawal of the American troops.

This condition could neither be admitted, because it might give occasion for the indefinite procrastination of the American troops to leave the Mexican territory.

The conditions expressed in the third point of Mr. Lane's Memorandum are, furthermore, in opposition to the declarations regarding the expedition's purpose made by President Wilson and ratified by the Senate, as well as to the instructions given to General Funston.

It seems unnecessary to say once more that such condition would be entirely violatory of Mexico's sovereignty, and that this would be the main reason for the Mexican Delegates not to accept it.

(Doc. No. 149).

MEMORANDUM OF MR. CABRERA.

The insecurity of the border is, in the opinion of the American Delegates, a source of trouble and unrest, and they want the Mexican Government to pursue the bandits who get close to the border, and, in a general way, that said Government take all possible steps to prevent the American territory from being threatened by the presence of said outlaws.

The Mexican Delegates believe that the conditions are the same for Mexico; that is, that on the American side, all along the frontier, efforts and activities are always alive against Señor Carranza's Government and against Mexico herself, which the American Government must prevent. The exportation of arms carried on from New Orleans and other American ports of the Gulf through smuggling; the shipment of arms to Cuba and Guatemala, and the activities of so many plotters all along the border, as well

as the organization of filibustering bands in California, are all very serious acts performed in United States territory and directly intended to originate troubles to the Mexican Government and to Mexico herself.

Mexico has the right to expect that the United States will prosecute the misdoers, or at least, that the necessary measures be adopted to stop such activities, just like the United States claims to have the right to expect that Mexico should go after the outlaws who may threaten the border.

(Doc. No. 150).

MEMORANDUM OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATES.

The Mexican Commissioners deem it advisable to establish a common zone of pursuit, because such zone would afford the greatest amount, of insecurity for the outlaws, and consequently just for that reason, all danger of troubles at the border would become very remote.

The common zone of pursuit is also a protection not only against bandits, but against any other kind of armed bands. It would not only be useful against bandits, to make remote the danger of international complications, but also the domestic peace of both countries would thus be guaranteed, because the perturbors of order in Mexico and the United States would not find a place of refuge.

On the other hand, experience has shown that the common zone of pursuit gives splendid results.

The dangers of friction on account of pursuit by means of troops from one country going into the other, may be prevented by means of constant telephonic and telegraphic communication, exchange of information, written permits to the lower officers to go across the border, and a timely advice at the beginning of the pursuit.

Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 10th, 1916.

(Doc. No. 151).

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL REASONS EXISTING IN THE OPINION OF THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONERS FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITH- DRAWAL OF THE AMERICAN FORCES.

I

The entering of armed forces from one country into territory of another is a violation to her sovereignty, unless made with the

express or tacit consent of the country that the foreign forces have entered.

The Mexican Government announced its consent to the American troops, upon a base of reciprocity, stepping across the boundary line in pursuit of bandits, if a case similar to that of Columbus should arise. (1)

The punitive expedition of Columbus is only explained by the belief of the American Government that it had the consent of the Mexican Government for the pursuit of the assaulters of Columbus. (2)

The acquiescence of the Mexican Government for future cases was taken to mean a tacit acquiescence for the Columbus case. (3)

The Mexican Government showed willingness to make an Agreement for the reciprocal sending of troops, so that in such agreement were established the express consent of the Mexican Government to the pursuit of the Columbus raiders. (4)

The military expedition of General Pershing entered the Mexican territory before the tacit consent of the Mexican Government became an express consent in the form of a treaty. (5)

When the State Department of the United States expressed its determination that the protocol under negotiation should not be applied to the Columbus incident (Note of April 4th, 1916, from the Secretary to the Confidential Agent of the Mexican Government),

(1) Note of March 10th, 1916, from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to the Confidential Agent of the American Government: "If the raid registered at Columbus should unfortunately repeat itself at any other point of the boundary line."

(2) Note of March 13th, 1916, from the Confidential Agent of the United States Government to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico: "The United States Government understands that in view of your consent to this reciprocal arrangement proposed by the 'De Facto' Government, such arrangement is now complete and in force, and that the privilege mentioned above can be exercised by each Government without any further exchange of views."

(3) Letter of March 9th, 1916, from the State Secretary to the Confidential Agent of the Mexican Government: "As I told you, I sincerely lament that we should have misunderstood the attitude of Señor Carranza regarding the passing of United States troops across the boundary line in pursuit of Villa."

(4) Note of March 11th, from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to the United States Secretary of State: "This Government is disposed to act within the most strict terms of reciprocity if unfortunately such incursions should hereafter repeat themselves at any place of the boundary line, but by no means or must the above-mentioned note be interpreted as meaning that expeditions entering Mexican territory are to be allowed or tolerated."

(5) Note of March 19th, 1916, from the Foreign Secretary of Mexico to the Confidential Agent of the United States Government: "The Mexican Government can but find it too strange that said troops should have crossed the border, entering our territory without any previous agreement, communiqué or official advice of any kind."

the tacit consent of the Mexican Government could not be finally made to crystallize in the form of an express consent to the agreement.

It may be said that from April 12th, 1916, when the Mexican Government requested the American Government to withdraw its troops of the Columbus expedition, the tacit consent which the American Government thought to have for the Punitive Expedition, was absolutely made void. (Note of April 12th, from the Mexican Foreign Secretary to the Secretary of State).

II

Supposing that the Mexican Government should have given its consent to the punitive expedition, this only could have been done in the belief that said expedition constituted an act of defense and an effectual help for the harassment of the assaulters. This consent would have to cease as soon as the defense became unnecessary or the help failed to be effectual because the presence of the American troops would produce friction of consequences more dangerous than the very existence of the bands of marauders.

The Mexican Government showed a certain consent for the reciprocal sending of forces across the border, in the belief that the pursuit about to start after the Columbus raid would take place in territory close to the border on both sides. (Note of March 10th, 1916.)

The Mexican Government would have never shown any consent at all to that expedition if it had merely imagined that the American forces were to remain **seven months** in Mexican territory.

III

The Mexican Government would neither have given its consent to the passing of American forces into Mexican territory, if it had just imagined that the expedition might have another object in view or could delay its retirement by any reason other than the following of the fresh trails of the Columbus raiders.

General Pershing's military expedition could not have any other character but that of a co-operation of the American forces with the Mexican forces for the following of the Columbus raiders. (1) From the moment it was made clear that the co-operation between the Mexican authorities and the American forces was impossible,

(1) Instructions to General Funston given at Washington, March 1st, 1916: "These troops shall return to American territory as soon as the 'De Facto' Government of Mexico is capable of relieving them of this work, and, at all events, the task of these troops will be considered as finished as soon as the band or bands of Villa are known to be dispersed."

said forces should retire themselves, because such expedition ceased then to have the nature of help and became an unlawful intervention.

The Pershing expedition should have withdrawn also from the moment the help alleged to be lent for the pursuit of the bandits created a situation originating frictions and conflicts, be it by imprudence of the expeditioners, be it by the susceptibility of the inhabitants of the Mexican towns.

The Pershing expedition should have retired right after the Parral incident, because from that very moment any co-operation was made impossible, the danger of friction became visible and it was clearly seen that it was entirely impracticable for the expedition to achieve its object.

IV

The Columbus expedition, according to President Wilson's declarations, (1) according to the instructions given to General Funston and to the resolution passed by the Senate (2) in support of Mr. Wilson's declarations, had no other purpose but the following of the assaulters of Columbus, and therefore it should retire as soon as it had achieved its object and in no case was it to assume the nature of an intervention.

From the moment it became certain that no co-operation was possible between the American army and the Mexican army, and, first of all, from the moment when occasions of friction began to appear, and when the consent of the Mexican Government was frankly denied, the expedition took the form of an intervention against the Mexican people's will, and therefore it should have been withdrawn.

The expedition should retire because facts have demonstrated that since five months ago General Pershing's forces, notwithstanding their being yet some three hundred kilometers south of the border, have had no opportunity to fight any band of outlaws, and,

(1) Declarations made by President Wilson, published by the press on March 26th, 1916. Mr. Wilson's speech accepting the candidacy of the Democratic Party for the Presidency, at Shadow Lawn, New Jersey, September 21, 1916.

(2) That the use of United States armed forces, for the only object of capturing and punishing the bands of armed outlaws who entered the United States coming from Mexico, on the 9th of March, 1916, committed outrages on American soil and went back into Mexico, be approved by these presents and that the Congress also extends its assurance to the "De Facto" Government of Mexico and to the Mexican people, that the pursuit of the above mentioned band of armed outlaws across the international boundary line, is intended for the only object of capturing and punishing the fugitive band of marauders; that the Congress by approving the use of armed forces of the United States for the announced purposes, joins President Wilson in declaring that the said expedition will not be allowed to usurp in any way Mexico's sovereignty, nor to intervene in any form in the domestic affairs of the Mexican people."

on the contrary, occasions for friction have presented themselves, as that of El Carrizal.

The withdrawal of the American forces from the Mexican territory cannot be delayed by reasons of insecurity on the Mexican side, much less under the excuse of protection to any kind of interests residing in Mexico.

In short, since it is an attack on Mexico's sovereignty, which wounds very deeply the Mexican people's dignity, preventing the continuation of the sincere friendship there must exist between both countries; since it is an act performed without the Mexican Government's consent and is unnecessary for the object intended by the American Government, because it is impracticable; since it does not constitute help nor co-operation of any kind for the harassment of the bandits, and since the time is come for the expedition's retirement according to the declarations made by President Wilson and the Senate, General Pershing's expedition must retire from Mexico.

The presence of the American forces in Mexican territory without the Mexican Government's consent and without the possibility of achieving its purposes, constitutes an intervention in Mexico, and is in opposition to the purposes declared by President Wilson and by the Senate as ground for the expedition.

(Doc. No. 152).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, October 12th, 1916.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, Atlantic City:

First Chief does not want the Commission to discuss yet the withdrawal of American forces and the protection of the boundary line, because if no agreement is reached concerning the latter point the American Government will take it as an excuse for not having its forces leave our territory; therefore I confirm my previous message to the effect that you must discuss first the withdrawal of the American forces, and when they have left the country you may talk over the other subjects included in your telegram of the 7th inst. Hearty greetings,

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 153).

**UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION.**

Friday, October 13th, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:25 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The morning was devoted to the discussion of various projects of plans for the retirement of the troops and the protection of the border.

It was resolved to adjourn at 1:15 p. m., to meet again at 3:30, restarting work at 3:50 p. m.

The afternoon was spent discussing the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexican territory.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting on Saturday, October 14th, in the morning, in case the Mexican or the American Commissioners should wish to submit any definitive proposal.

The session adjourned at 5:55 p. m.

(Doc. No. 154).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, October 17th, 1916.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, Atlantic City:

Your message of the 10th at hand. I confirm messages addressed to you by Foreign Secretary, saying that no subject shall be discussed at the International Conferences until the withdrawal of the American troops is effected and the form is arranged for the protection of the boundary line. I have ordered fresh troops to be sent to Chihuahua in order that the pursuit of the Villista forces there be more effectual. Hearty greetings,

V. CARRANZA.

(Doc. No. 155).

TELEGRAM.

Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 18th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Mexico City:

Telegram 55.

We were discussing the agreements according to our Memorandum inserted in telegram we sent you on the 7th, when instructions

came not to discuss any other point but the withdrawal of troops.

These instructions placed us in a most difficult condition and even at the point of endangering the success of the conferences. We then set ourselves to discuss the project submitted by the American Commissioner Mr. Lane.

Actual circumstances on the eve of elections place us in difficult conditions to obtain prompt and practical results.

The Americans try to obtain favorable conditions so as to be able to publish them as successful news to help in their election campaign. The conditions we demand regarding the withdrawal at a certain early date are hard on them and they could not exhibit them on the eve of elections.

In view of the above the best policy is not to arrive at any conclusion before the elections. To this effect we proposed a plan that will permit us to delay the discussion while our governments decide.

The following project of agreement is the one we propose:

First.—The American forces shall retire in the form they deem more convenient for their own security, the withdrawal to be wholly effected by the 31st of December, 1916.

Second.—The American troops shall retire at once, as a preliminary proof of their willingness to evacuate, up to Colonia Dublan.

Third.—The retirement of the troops shall be effected, giving the corresponding advice to the Military Commander of the State of Chihuahua, that this officer may proceed to occupy the positions left by the American forces and which may be necessary to cover in order to check the Villista bands on their way to the frontier.

Fourth.—Both countries pledge themselves to establish a system of safeguarding and keeping the border, on the following basis:

(a) Full exchange of information;

(b) Mutual use of the railroads in each other's territory for the transportation of troops from either nation along the boundary line.

(c) Exploration made by both forces along the border, which may take place within a zone of ten miles to either side of the line, provided written permits are previously obtained and provided such explorations are made in desert zones.

Fifth.—Both countries pledge themselves to carry on an active harassment of the bands of outlaws within each one's territory, but in case that they should escape across the line from one country into the other, the pursuit will be made in common accord between the forces of the two countries.

Sixth.—The United States will take effectual measures to protect the Mexican Government against the activities of filibusters and enemies along the border.

Seventh.—The United States will lift the embargo on arms and ammunition exported to Mexico.

On this account we submitted the following Order of the conferences: The Mexican Commissioners wish to know the American Commissioners' opinion regarding the following project of programme for our work: When the agreement inserted in the Memorandum included herewith is accepted, the Commissioners shall submit it to the consideration of their respective governments.

The agreements reached by the Commissioners shall not be published until definitively approved by both governments. The Commission shall only make public in the United States and in Mexico that an arrangement has been reached which has been submitted to both governments.

The Commissioners shall adjourn until both governments make known their approval or their objections to the projected agreement.

The Commission shall meet again at the City of Washington as soon as both governments may have given their respective opinions as to the proposed Agreement.

We see now few probabilities to obtain the withdrawal of the troops at a fixed date, early and unconditionally. Tomorrow we shall discuss again the same subject. We will send with Colonel Barragan at the end of this week, reports on the status of our work.

General Pablo González's declarations regarding the policies of Wilson and Hughes have been one of the several things hindering our efforts, because it is naturally thought here that if the ideas expressed by General Gonzalez were the Government's ideas, it is then hard to see the use of going on with the conferences.

Hearty greetings,

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 156).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, October 20th, 1916.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation,
Traymore Hotel, Atlantic, City New Jersey:

By orders of the First Chief I advise you that the project inserted in your telegram No. 55 of yesterday, is not approved because the American forces have not been withdrawn from our territory. While said forces are not retired, no other subject can be discussed, and the Mexican Commission shall, in consequence,

act in strict accordance with instructions given at the beginning. As soon as the American forces have left our territory, the Mexican Commission will be able to treat some other points.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 157).

Atlantic City, October 20th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Mexico, D. F.:

Telegram No. 68.

To day's session was very important. We are getting close to an agreement for the withdrawal of American forces. The idea we consider is that our troops occupy the territory as the Americans evacuate it, both commanders acting in accord with each other, as they say it was done at Veracruz. We need be sure (and we have asked General Treviño about it) that our forces would be able to occupy and protect the territory lying between the American line to fifty kilometers from it in order to prevent the Villistas from entering such zone. It will facilitate this agreement a good deal if we can promise that the Mexican Government will appoint a special Commander. To this effect we must appoint a military chief of all our confidence, for himself as much as for the kind of troops he commands. Session adjourned to reopen next Wednesday, because American Delegates have to go home to register for elections. In the meanwhile I expect your opinion on Memorandum I inserted in our telegram No. 51, because I cannot continue discussion without it. Mr. Cabrera is sending you by Colonel Juan Barragan a report on our work.

JUAN B. ROJO.

(Doc. No. 158).

TELEGRAM.

Atlantic City, October 24th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

The members of the Commission direct me to tell you the following:

"We have taken notice that the First Chief does not approve

the project included in our telegram No. 55. Said project was a proposal of ours which the American Delegates did not approve either and was dismissed. In order that our work may be better judged I inform you that in regard to the protection of the border there is no discussion, since the American Commissioners agree to a system of mutual exploration along the boundary line. Regarding the pursuit of outlaws, the American Commissioners are still interested in accepting the system of crossing the boundary line.

Regarding the withdrawal of troops, it is accepted in principle and this subject is not under discussion, but what we have been discussing is the date and manner of the withdrawal. Each time we try to determine a certain date for the retirement of the troops the Americans demand a certain security as to pacification of the State of Chihuahua. We answer our obligation is confined to protect the frontier, but naturally when we, the Mexican Commissioners, assume the attitude that the troops should retire immediately and unconditionally, since they have no right to remain in our territory, we find that it is practically impossible at present for the American Government to promise the retirement of its troops without any previous arrangement regarding the situation at the border. Our personal opinion is that if we arrange a plan of protection for the frontier, it will be easier for us to set a date, very early, for the unconditional retirement of the forces. We also are of the opinion that Mexico should not leave the border question unsolved, because if the American Government were compelled to withdraw its troops without any other arrangement, Mexico would remain under the threat of a new invasion in case that incidents should occur at the border. In view of your telegram we cannot go on discussing anything, and therefore we request of you to please send us your instructions on what we must now do. We beg you to re-read very carefully paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of our instructions of August 3d and the First Chief's message of October 17th, and to compare those documents with the telegrams of that Foreign Office dated the 9th, 12th and the 20th of October, which modify altogether the sense of our instructions. We request of you to please tell us if said instructions of August 3d are subsistent, or we must consider your above-mentioned telegrams as nullifying them. We do not refer to other points the Americans want to discuss, which we know we cannot discuss until the troops are withdrawn, but to the fact that we have been discussing the matter of the frontier and the withdrawal of the forces, while according to your last telegram we must stop discussing the frontier situation and confine our talks to the retirement of the troops.

ROJO, Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Atlantic City, October 25th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Telegram No. 73.

At the request of Messrs. the Commissioners I inform you that our two sessions of today were wholly devoted to ask for the withdrawal of American forces, submitting petition which you will find in synthesis in the following note, which was signed by the Mexican Delegates and addressed to the American Commissioners: "We, the undersigned, considering what was discussed during our last meeting and in the two previous sessions, have the honor to submit to your consideration the following idea: First—Since the so-called punitive expedition against outlaws has destroyed the bands of marauders according to the American Official report; second—since that was the only object of said expedition according to express declarations made by President Wilson, the ratification of the Senate and the instructions given to General Funston; third—since the entrance and permanence of American forces in Mexican territory have provoked or favored the formation of new bands of outlaws or rebels, and the union of said bands by exciting the popular feelings against foreigners invasion, by which the bandit who led the attack on Ciudad Dublan is being turned into a heroic defender of the national dignity; fourth—since American forces cannot continue without the consent of the Mexican Government the pursuit of new bands of outlaws without giving origin to troubles more serious than those originated by the outlaws themselves; fifth—since the American forces now in the State of Chihuahua cannot perform there any other task but acting as rural police within the limited zone materially occupied by them, and protecting the corresponding part of the border; since, finally, the stay of American forces in the State of Chihuahua without the consent of the Mexican Government constitutes a flagrant violation of the National sovereignty and an unjust offense to her people; we hope that the Honorable Commissioners, moved by a spirit of justice and by the wish to create a firm foundation for the cordiality of the future relations between the United States, Mexico and the other American countries, will agree to recommend to their Government the retirement of the United States troops from Mexican territory in the form designed by the military commanders of both countries in full accord, fulfilling the following requirements: (1) During

the withdrawal of the American troops, are subsistent the effects of the co-operation of both countries' forces in the actual conditions of security in the State of Chihuahua and in the zone along the border; (2) The evacuation of the American forces will be through by the last of December this year." This afternoon our note was delivered to them and they resolved to study it and draft and submit their answer.

JUAN B. ROJO.

(Doc. No. 160).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION.

Friday, October 27th, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:30 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The American Commissioners submitted to the Mexican Commissioners a project of Agreement in the following terms:

**MEMORANDUM CONTAINING THE PRINCIPLES OF AN
AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN COM-
MISSIONERS TO THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONERS.**

Thursday, October 26th, 1916.

Honorable Luis Cabrera, Honorable Ignacio Bonillas, Honorable Alberto J. Pani—Sirs: We beg to submit to your consideration the following sketch of an agreement whose adoption we sincerely believe will accomplish the purposes for which this Commission was created:

The Mexican Commissioners have constantly insisted on the importance of arriving at concrete and definite results regarding the withdrawal of the American troops and the protection of the border. The American Commissioners are sincerely willing to comply with the wishes of their Mexican colleagues as to a prompt solution of these two questions, as well as to reaching satisfactory conclusions on the other points of common interest. Consequently they propose that an immediate agreement be reached by this Commission regarding the retirement of the troops and the protection

of the border, and that, pending the ratification of this arrangement by the respective governments, the Mexican Government give the formal securities that it will agree, in principle, with the other proposal contained in this Memorandum and which must be considered as a substantial part of the agreement; let it be understood, though, that no announcement whatever will be made to the public by this Commission nor by any of its members nor by any of the governments, until the plans for the withdrawal of the troops and the protection of the border have been ratified by both governments and until the Mexican Government has given the above-mentioned securities, which will be announced with the plan for the withdrawal.

1.—PROPOSAL REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF TROOPS AND SAFEGUARDING OF THE FRONTIER.

(1).—WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS.

The United States agree to withdraw the American troops from Mexican territory, according to the following plan:

(a)—Fifteen days after the ratification of this Agreement the American forces will retire to the north, up to Colonia Dublan, provided within thirty days no assault occurs within sixty-five miles from the actual American positions at El Valle.

(b)—At the end of another period of sixty days, or before, if the United States Government deems it convenient, the American troops will completely abandon the Mexican territory, either marching toward Columbus, New Mexico, or by the Northwestern Railroad of Mexico up to El Paso, Texas, or by both ways, as the United States Government may prefer it.

(2)—THE ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONERS AND WHICH FORM PART OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1)—COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS ON NEUTRALITY.

The United States Government will use all means at its disposal to avoid, within its jurisdiction, conspiracies against the "De Facto" Government or against the established order of Mexico.

(2)—PROTECTION TO LIVES AND PROPERTIES OF FOREIGNERS.

The Mexican Government agrees very solemnly to extend full and effectual protection to the lives and properties of the United States citizens and other foreigners, and this protection shall be of such nature that it will permit the United States citizens and other foreigners to re-engage themselves in the mining works and other industries in which they may be interested.

The United States Government reserves to itself the right to send again troops into Mexico and to afford protection by means of its military forces in case the Mexican Government should fail to do it. In case of Americans being killed in the United States by marauders, the United States Government reserves itself the right to pursue said marauders until they are captured.

The United States Government agrees to employ all means within its reach to secure an adequate protection for the Mexican citizens residing in American territory.

(3)—RECOGNITION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS.

All rights of property acquired up to the present by United States citizens and any other foreigners according to the constitutional laws issued in the Mexican Republic, will be consider as valid, If any question should arise regarding the validity of such property rights, the Mexican Government agrees to have the decision upon such rights remitted to the courts duly constituted and submit to their sentence.

(4)—CLAIM COMMISSION.

The Mexican Government agrees, in principle, to the establishment of a Joint Claims Commission, to give the due attention to all the claims of United States citizens and other foreigners, which may result of damages caused on persons and properties after the 2d of November, 1910. Later on a protocol will determine the form of this Commission, the terms upon which to submit to it the claims, and the proceedings to the followed by such body.

(5)—RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE.

The Mexican Government agrees to enforce the constitutional prescription regarding freedom of conscience, with a broad spirit of religious tolerance.

(6)—ERADICATION OF DISEASES AND SUCCOR OF MISERY AND FAMINE.

The Mexican Government agrees to afford all kinds of facilities for their work to all those United States institutions which may wish to fight diseases and alleviate the misery and famine now existing in many regions of the Mexican Republic.

We are, very respectfully yours,

(Signed), Franklin K. Lane, George Gray, John R. Mott.

It was resolved also to insert in the minutes the *communiqué* of the Mexican Commissioners dated October 25th, 1916, reading as follows:

COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED BY THE MEXICAN COMMISSIONERS TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN SESSION HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, October 25th, 1916.

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

Atlantic City, October 25th, 1916.

Honorable Franklin K. Lane, Honorable George Gray, Honorable John R. Mott:

We are expecting your answer regarding your conformity with the previous proposals, or whatever suggestions you may deem convenient to make as to the form, date and conditions for the withdrawal of the forces.

We renew to you, gentlemen, the assurances of our most distinguished consideration. (Signed) Luis Cabrera, I Bonillas, A. J. Pani.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting coming Monday, Oc-

The session adjourned at 12:45 p. m.
tober 30th, at 10 a. m.

(Doc. No. 161).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, October 28th, 1916.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, Atlantic City:

First Chief instructs me to tell you that the Commission you preside must obey the instructions given in last messages without preoccupying yourselves as to whether they imply modifications to instructions given at the beginning. The Mexican Commission must discuss at present the withdrawal of the American troops only, and when they have left our territory any other matters may then be discussed.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 162).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION.

Tuesday, October 31st, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 11:10 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The Mexican Commissioners proposed that their answer to the Memorandum submitted by the American Commissioners on October 27th be included in the minutes. The text of said answer is as follows:

Honorable Franklin K. Lane, Honorable George Gray, Honorable John R. Mott—Sirs: In reference to your letter dated yesterday, delivered to us today and which we have just read with all attention, we judge it our duty not to let a single moment pass without expressing to you our absolute disagreement with the point of your propositions regarding the Mexican Government ever consenting to the United States reserving for themselves the right to enter again into country in order to afford armed protection to the lives and interests of their citizens.

We do not believe that any nation on earth, considering herself sovereign, could ever consent to such a stipulation, and for our part not only must we not admit it, but we even consider it necessary to have it recorded in writing that we cannot even listen to any similar proposition.

The object of our trip to the United States is just exactly to work for the retirement of the American troops now in Mexican territory, and there has been nothing in our attitude when we discuss Mexican affairs to make the Honorable American Commissioners believe that we were disposed to accept a proposition purporting the abandonment of our country's sovereignty.

It has also seemed strange to us that in your letter of yesterday there is the condition for the retirement of the troops that we reach an agreement in regard to the points contained in Chapter II of your letter, which is in open contradiction with the terms of your Memorandum of September 22d, where you emphatically stated that the withdrawal of the troops would not depend on the discussion of the other points.

Al the other parts of the above-mentioned letter will be a matter of long consideration on our part, and we shall answer it in the next session, and this note of ours is, therefore, to be considered as merely a way to express our unquestionable disagreement with the above-mentioned point.

We renew to you the expression of our most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) Luis Cabrera, I. Bonillas, A. J. Pani.

The meeting was called off at 12:10 p. m. and reopened at 4 p. m.

The afternoon was devoted to discussing the retirement of the troops from Mexican territory.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10 a. m.

The session adjourned at 6:10 p. m.

(Doc. No. 163).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION.

Wednesday, November 1st, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 11 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

The morning was devoted to discussing the withdrawal of the troops from Mexican territory.

At 12:40 the meeting was called off, and the Commission met again at 4 p. m.

It was proposed and approved that the President of the Mexican Commission and the President of the American Commission appoint each a member of his own Commission, both to get together and work in formulating a plan for the withdrawal of the troops, and said plan would be submitted to the full Commission in the session of tomorrow, Thursday, in the morning.

At 5:05 p.m. the session adjourned in order that the members of each Commission might hold a conference.

The Commissioners met again at 5:45 p. m. Secretary Cabrera announced the appointment of Señor Pani to represent the Mexican Commission, and Secretary Lane announced the appointment of Dr. Mott to represent the American Commission.

It was resolved not to hold meetings tomorrow, Thursday, and to reopen the sessions at the same Traymore Hotel, in Atlantic City, next Friday, November 10th. at 10 a. m. It was finally agreed that the following session would be held tomorrow, Thursday, at 10 a. m.

The meeting was called off at 6:20 p. m.

(Doc. No. 164).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION.

Thursday, November 2d, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:45 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The Secretary proceeded to read a telegram from the General Director of the Pan-American Union, transmitting the invitation of the Board of Directors of the Union to the Joint Commission, to meet at the building of the Pan-American Union in case the Commission should wish to hold conferences at Washington. The Commission resolved to answer the message, thanking the Board of Directors of the Pan-American and expressing them all appreciation for their invitation, informing them at the same time that due to the fact that the sessions would continue being held at Atlantic City, it was not possible to accept the invitation by this time.

The Sub-Committee formed by Mssrs. Pani and Mott, appointed by the respective Presidents of the Mexican-American Commission to draft a project of agreement regarding the retirement of the troops for the consideration of the Commission, submitted their report, which was immediately considered and discussed.

It was resolved that according to the resolution of the Commission, the next session be held next Friday, November 10th, at 10 a m.

The Commission adjourned at 12:45 p. m.

(Doc. No. 165).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION.

Friday, November 17th, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 11:15 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

During the morning, matters connected with the order of subjects to be dealt with, were discussed.

At 12:25 p. m. the meeting was called off, and the session reopened at 3:30 p. m., Secretary Cabrera being absent.

Secretary Lane submitted the following proposition on behalf of the American Commissioners:

"We propose that the sessions adjourn till next Monday at 11 a. m. In the meantime we withdraw all our proposals regarding retirement of troops and protection of the border."

The proposal was unanimously approved.

At 3:45 p. m. the meeting was called off.

(Doc. No. 166).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION.

Tuesday, November 21st, 1916.

Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 10:45 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The Mexican Commissioners requested that their communiqué of November 17th, 1916, be inserted in the minutes of the day, which was granted. The text of the note is as follow:

Honorable Franklin K. Lane, Honorable George Gray, Honorable John R. Mott—Sirs: The status at which we have arrived in our discussions makes it necessary, we believe, to define in writing the points of agreement we the Mexican Commissioners are willing to accept.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS.

Regarding the retirement of the troops, the Mexican Commissioners would find acceptable the Memorandum drafted by Messrs. Mott and Pani, in the form which was approved by all the Commissioners in session of the 19th inst.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES.

Article I.—The United States Government agrees to start the withdrawal of the American forces from Mexican territory as soon as possible, said retirement having to be concluded no later than (forty days after the ratification of this agreement by both governments).

Article II.—General Pershing shall determine the way in which the retirement must be effected, so that it wounds not the dignity of the United States as a friendly nation, and at the same time seeing that the territory he leaves is given full security.

Article III.—It is understood that the territory evacuated by the American troops will be occupied and adequately protected by Constitutionalist forces. The Mexican Commander will determine the plan of occupation and protection of the territory left by the United States forces.

Article IV.—The Mexican and American commanders will take charge, separately or jointly whenever it be possible, of removing any obstacles which may appear and tend to delay the retirement.

If new activities of forces hostile to the Constitutionalist Government should begin, which might endanger the security of the international boundary corresponding to the northern part of Chihuahua, the retirement of the American forces shall not be delayed for more than the strict time required to crush such activities.

Article V.—The withdrawal of the American troops shall be effected either directly to Columbus, or using the Northwestern Railroad of Mexico, to El Paso, or by both ways, as it may be deemed more convenient or accessible by the American Commander.

PATROLLING OF THE BORDER.

Regarding the patrolling of the frontier, the Mexican Commissioners would be disposed to accept the substantial idea proposed by the Commissioner Mr. Lane, in the definite form given to it by the Commissioner Mr. Gray in Articles I, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of his Memorandum of October 10th.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING AGREEMENT FOR THE PATROLLING OF THE FRONTIER.

Article I.—For the patrolling of the border during the period of abnormal conditions, the military commanders of both countries will lend their co-operation as far as they can.

Article IV.—In order to prevent, and protect the border against the raids of bandits, the military commanders of both countries will communicate to each other all the reports that may help to prevent outrages.

Article V.—The forces of both countries shall mutually use the railroads on both sides of the border for the transportation of troops and supplies necessary for the safeguarding of the frontier.

Article IV.—The forces of both countries will be granted the right to make explorations ten miles away from the boundary line into each other's territory, under the condition that this privilege must be individually granted in writing by the respective commanders, but in no case said explorations shall cover zones lying within ten miles of any town having over one hundred inhabitants.

Article VII.—The United States shall continue using all means allowed them by the laws to prevent on the American side of the border the organization of filibustering expeditions or any other conspiracy of a hostile character against the Mexican Government.

Article VIII.—This agreement will be in force for a term of four months. If none of the contracting Governments gives notice to the other of its desire to quit it fifteen days before its maturity or expiration, the agreement will remain in force for an additional time of thirty days from the date in which either Government notifies the other of its intention to quit it.

PURSUIT OF OUTLAWS.

Regarding the pursuit of outlaws, the Mexican Commissioners would accept the reciprocal sending of forces of either country across the border, provided such action is sufficiently regulated, so that without diminishing the efficacy of the persecution, it may be consistent with the sovereignty of both countries. In this regard we might accept, in principle, the ideas submitted by the State Department on April 4th.

MEMORANDUM OF AN AGREEMENT.

Article I.—It is agreed that the regular forces of the governments of both Republics may reciprocally go across the boundary line between the Colorado River and Piedras Negras, to operate within a zone of sixty kilometers from the line in the territory of each other, for the purpose of pursuing bands of armed individuals who may have gone from one country **into the other, committed outrages in foreign territory and then** escaped across the boundary line.

Article II.—The reciprocal passing of troops agreed upon in Article I will take place only in desert or unprotected places of the territory stretching to each side of the border, and in no case at points located less than ten kilometers from any cantonments or towns in the country where the pursuit is made, unless such cantonments or towns are located in a mountainous district where access is difficult.

Article III.—The commander of the forces going across the border by the terms of this agreement, at the time of marching over or before if it were possible, will give notice to the nearest commander or to the civil authorities of the country he is going into, regarding the movements he proposes to make and the number of troops under his command.

Article IV.—The government of the country where the pursuit is to be made, shall co-operate by all possible means with the pursuing forces to the effect that the bands of outlaws be captured with all haste or exterminated.

Article V.—The pursuing forces will retire to their own territory as soon as they overcome, or fight, within the said zone, the bands of outlaws they were after. In no case shall the pursuing forces establish themselves or remain in foreign territory for any longer than fifteen days, unless there is a previous agreement between the two governments to that effect.

Article VI.—No pursuit is to be made in territory of another country unless it starts within three days after the band of outlaws escapes across the boundary line.

Article VII.—Under no excuse nor consideration can the pursuing forces of either Government occupy towns or cantonments

located in the country where the pursuit is taking place by the terms of this agreement. The Government the pursuing forces belong to will be in charge of the expenses of subsistence and any other expenditure connected with their entry into foreign territory.

Article VIII.—All abuses committed by the pursuing forces will be punished by the Government they belong to, according to the graveness of the offense. The persons directly responsible for such abuses will be retired from the border and a prompt indemnity shall be paid to the people damaged.

Article IX.—If the inhabitants of a country should commit outrages against the foreign pursuing forces, the Government of the country where such outrages are committed will be responsible to the other country's government only in case of denial of justice or if it refuses to punish the culprits.

Article X.—This agreement will have effect from the date in which it is signed, and will remain in force until any of the contracting parties gives advice, in writing, two months beforehand, regarding its intention to quit it. In witness whereof we have signed this agreement etc....

If it were not possible to reach an agreement for the reciprocal sending of forces across the border, then we, the Mexican Commissioners, believe that the arrangements for the retirement of the troops and military co-operation to protect the border should subsist; but if the American Commissioners believe that not even this latter arrangement could stand, then the Mexican Commissioners would accept the arrangement for the withdrawal of the troops upon the base of leaving to each country the obligation of guarding its frontier according to the principles of International Law.

It is highly pleasant for us to renew to you the assurances of our consideration, remaining,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) Luis Cabrera, Ignacio Bonillas, A. J. Pani.

The American Commissioners submitted a plan for the withdrawal of the troops and the protection of the border.

After a short discussion of the said plan, the session adjourned at 11:30 a. m. to meet again at 3:20 p. m., and the Commissioners immediately started to consider the plan for the withdrawal of the troops and the protection of the border.

After some more discussion the Commissioners adopted the plan for the retirement of the troops and the protection of the border, in the following form:

PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AND REFERENDUM RELATING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMERICAN FORCES.

Memorandum signed today, the... of... 1916, by Messrs. Franklin K. Lane, George Gray and John R. Mott, Special Commissioners of the President of the United States of America, and Luis Cabrera, Ignacio Bonillas and Alberto J. Pani, Special Commissioners of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic.

Article I.—The United States Government agrees to start the withdrawal of the American troops from the Mexican territory as soon as it becomes practicable. Said retirement will be made according to the following terms of this agreement, and must be through at least by the.. of.. 1916. (Forty days after the approval of this agreement by both governments.)

Article II.—The American Commander shall determine the way to effect the withdrawal in a manner guaranteeing the security of the territory affected by the evacuation.

Article III.—The Constitutionalist forces will advance, occupying and protecting the territory as the American troops are evacuating it. The evacuation will take place when the Constitutionalist forces have taken all points to the south of the American forces, so as to make such occupation and protection effectual. The Mexican Commander shall determine the plan for the occupation and protection of the territory evacuated by the American forces.

Article IV.—The American and Mexican Commanders will endeavor either separately, or, whenever it be possible, in friendly co-operation, to overcome any difficulties which might arise tending to delay the retirement. If new activities of forces hostile to the Constitutionalist Government should appear, which may endanger the safety of the Northern frontier of Chihuahua, the withdrawal of the American forces shall be delayed for the time strictly necessary to crush such activities.

Article V.—The retirement of the American troops will be made either directly toward Columbus, or by the Mexican Northwestern Railroad toward El Paso, or using both ways, just as the American commander may judge it more convenient or more expedient.

Article IV.—Each one of the contracting governments will exert the vigilance of its own frontier. This of course does not exclude the co-operation which may be possible between the military commanders of both countries.

Article VII.—This Agreement will be in force from and after its ratification by both governments. The advice of approval will be exchanged between both governments.

In witness thereof we have extended and signed in English and Spanish, by duplicate, the present protocol, ad referendum, in

Atlantic City, New Jersey, United States of America, on the.. of 19...

It was resolved to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, the
The Commission adjourned at 6:05 p. m.
22d inst., at 11 a. m.

(Doc. Núm. 167).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION.

Wednesday, November 22d, 1916.

Traymore Hotel. Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Commission met at 11:20 a. m. Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

During the morning several matters were discussed connected with the withdrawal of the troops and the protection of the border.

The meeting was called off at 1:15. and reopened at 5 p. m. The discussion went on regarding the same matters.

The American Commissioners submitted, newly drafted, the letter of November, 31st, 1916, which reads as follows:

Honorable Luis Cabrera, Honorable Ignacio Bonillas, Honorable A. J. Pani—Sirs: An agreement having been reached as to the withdrawal of the troops and the safeguarding of the frontier, according to instructions we have received from the President of the United States, we request of you to ask of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Nation, that when said agreement be approved by both governments, you be authorized to join immediately the American Commissioners to discuss questions which the American Government considers of vital importance, such as the protection of the life and property of foreigners in Mexico, the creation of an International Claim Commission and any other questions which the American or the Mexican Commissioners may submit and which affect the continuation or security of the friendly relations between both countries, so as to arrive at definitive conclusions which will be submitted to both governments for their approval.

From the examination of the notes exchanged between the State Departments of both countries, we have understood that as soon as an agreement satisfactory to both nations were reached in regard to the retirement of troops and the protection of the border,

we would pass immediately to discuss other points considered as of vital importance to strengthen the friendly ties between both countries. This point of view has not been accepted by all the Mexican Commissioners. Consequently it is necessary for us to know whether the interpretation given by the First Chief to the authorization he granted to this Commission purports the capacity of discussing, once the agreement is approved for the retirement of the troops and the protection of the border, independently of these points, the others this letter refers to, with the understanding that the resolution of the former points will not depend on the discussion of other subjects.

We remain respectfully yours, (Signed) Franklin K. Lane,
George Gray, John R. Mott.

The American Commissioners informed the Mexican Commissioners that they would submit the above-mentioned agreement to the approval of their Government as soon as the assurances requested in the letter of November 22d, 1916, were given.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting on Thursday, at 10 a. m.

The Commission adjourned at 7:15 p. m.

(Doc. No. 168).

TELEGRAM.

Atlantic City, November 25th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary, Queretaro, Queretaro:

Telegram No. 113.

In view of the conditions which have prevailed of late and in order not to see us in the case of giving up the conferences without any practical results, we have reached an Agreement which is practically confined to the withdrawal of the troops and each country's obligation to guard the border. The substance of the agreement is as follows:

Article I.—The United States Government agrees to commence the retirement of the American forces from the Mexican territory as soon as it is possible. The withdrawal is to be effected in accordance with the terms of this agreement, forty days after the approval of the same by both governments. (There is a blank space for the corresponding date).

Article II.—The American commander will determine the way to carry out the withdrawal, so as to guard the territory affected by the evacuation.

Article III.—The territory evacuated by the American troops will at once be occupied and suitably protected by the Constitutionalist forces. The evacuation will take place as soon as the Constitutionalist forces are ready to take the same position to protect them effectually. The Mexican commander will determine the plan for the occupation of the said territory as soon as evacuated by the American forces.

Article IV.—The American and the Mexican commanders will engage themselves, either separately, or, if it is possible, in friendly co-operation, in the overcoming of any obstacle which may present itself tending to delay the retirement. If new activities of forces hostile to the Constitutionalist Government should endanger the security of the northern frontier of Chihuahua, the retirement will not be delayed for any longer than necessary to overcome such activities.

Article V.—The withdrawal of the troops will be effected either directly up to Columbus, or by the Northwestern Railroad of Mexico to El Paso, or by both ways, if it is deemed more expedient by the American commander.

Article VI.—Each one of the governments will protect its own frontier. This does not exclude, though, all co-operation which may be possible between the commanders of both countries.

Article VII.—This agreement will be in force from the very moment it is approved by both governments.

The protocol was signed today, and the meetings were called off.

Mr. Pani left today for that place to make known to the First Chief and the Foreign Office the development of our works and to inform them about every detail of the situation, the means and the conditions in which such works were carried out, because by mail or by wire it is practically impossible to transmit all the necessary data.

We are packing up to leave, and in case the protocol is approved, it will be made known by wire, so as to be able to open our second period of sessions on December 8th at the place to be agreed upon by the State Department and Mr. Arredondo.

Luis Cabrera leaves today for Washington. I shall still remain here and will let you know my address in New York. Please send mail, until new advice, to Washington, D. C.

ROJO.

JOINT MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AD REFERENDUM SIGNED IN ATLANTIC CITY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1916.

Art. I.—The United States Government agrees to start the retirement of its troops from the Mexican territory as soon as possible, the withdrawal being subject to the conditions included in this agreement, and due to be through no later than . . . that is, forty days after the approval of this agreement by both governments.

Art. II.—The American Commander will determine the way in which the withdrawal of the troops is to be effected, so as to afford the proper protection to the territory affected by the movement.

Art. III.—The territory just evacuated by the American troops must be occupied and duly protected by the Constitutionalist forces, the American troops retiring as the Constitutionalist army advances on their southern rear, so as to make effective both the occupation and the protection. The Mexican Commander will determine the plan of occupation and protection of the territory left by the American troops.

Art. IV.—The Mexican and American commanders will engage themselves either separately, or, if it were possible, in friendly co-operation, in removing any obstacles tending to delay the withdrawal. In case that new activities of forces hostile to the Constitutionalist Government should threaten the security of the international boundary along the northern region of Chihuahua, the retirement of the American troops will not be delayed any longer than necessary to overcome said activities.

Art. V.—The withdrawal of the American troops must be effected either marching on to Columbus, or using the Mexican Northwestern Railroad toward El Paso, or by using both routes, as it may

PROPOSED PROTOCOL

Art. I.—The United States Government agrees to start the retirement of the American troops from Mexican territory right after the ratification of this Agreement, and to continue it until the complete withdrawal of said troops.

This was omitted in the proposed protocol.

Art. II.—The territory evacuated by the American troops must be occupied and protected by the Constitutionalist forces in accordance with the plan of the Mexican Commander.

Art. III.—The Mexican and the American Commanders will, either separately or in friendly co-operation, remove any obstacles which may present themselves and tend to hinder or prevent the withdrawal of the United States troops.

Art. IV.—The withdrawal of the American troops must be carried out either marching directly up to Columbus or through the Mexican Northwestern Railroad toward El Paso, or by both ways, as

be deemed more expedient by the American Commander.

Art. VI.—Each one of the Governments interested in this agreement must protect its side of the international boundary line. This, of course, does not exclude all possible co-operation of the part of the military commanders of both countries.

Art. VII.—This agreement will be in force from right after its approval by both governments. They must notify one another in regard to their sanction to it.

it may be deemed more expedient by the American commander.

Art. V.—Until an agreement is reached for the mutual protection of the border and for the pursuit of outlaws, each of the contracting governments must protect its own border. However, this does not exclude the co-operation that may be possible between the military commanders of both countries.

Art. VI.—This agreement will be in force right from the date of its approval by both governments. They must notify one another as to such approval.

(Doc. No. 170).

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, on being informed of the protocol of Agreement signed at Atlantic City by the United Mexican American Commission, which was submitted through this Department to the consideration of the said First Chief, he has deemed fit to have this office tell you, as President of the Mexican Delegation that you are, that the protocol in reference cannot be approved, since it should confine itself to the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the American troops now in Mexican territory, which it does not, and the said agreement must be rid of any condition or term which, on account of not being sufficiently explicit and its interpretation being up to the criterion of either party, might in the practice give origin to difficulties implying the procrastination or the suspension of the retirement of the United States expeditionary forces.

The First Chief judges that the only thing acceptable would be the retirement of the American troops to start right upon the ratification of the treaty, continuing without interruption to the total evacuation of the national territory, no reason being sufficient to stop such withdrawal.

Once this movement of the expeditionary forces is effected, the Commission you preside over will be able to discuss, in conformity with the faculties given to you in the respective credentials, the matters considered as convenient and tending to consolidate the friendly relations between both countries.

I renew to you the assurances of my high consideration and personal regard. Constitution and Reforms. Querétaro, December 8th, 1916.

(Signed) Alfonso M. Siller, Acting Secretary.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation, Washington, D. C.

(Doc. No. 171).

JOINT MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

FORTY-NINTH SESSION.

Monday, December 8th, 1916.

Bellevue-Strafford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Commission met at 10:45 a. m., Secretary Cabrera acting as Chairman.

The Commissioner Mr. Pani made known to the Assembly the opinion of the First Chief in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic regarding the proposed protocol of Agreement.

Mr. Cabrera stated that the First Chief's objections to the agreement would be submitted to the American Commissioners in the form of a written note.

At 11:45 a. m. the meeting was called off, to reopen at 4:35 p. m.

The Mexican Commissioners submitted the following note:

Honorable Franklin K. Lane, Honorable George Gray, Honorable John R. Mott—Sirs: Regarding the points verbally discussed in the course of our session of today, we have the honor to express to you that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army has not given his approval to the protocol submitted to his consideration, on account of the reasons succinctly described as follows:

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army thinks that the presence of the American troops in our territory constituting a violation of Mexico's sovereignty, the acceptance of any agreement for the withdrawal of the troops under conditions which later on might justify any delay in the withdrawal of said forces, could easily be misconstrued as a tacit consent of the Mexican Government to the actual occupation.

The Mexican Government wishes not to commit itself to unforeseen circumstances which might later on arise, as it might seem that the Government approved *a posteriori* the presence of the American troops in Mexican territory.

From this point of view the Mexican Government wishes the wording of the agreement to be sufficiently explicit so as not to give origin to future difficulties arising from its interpretation and execution.

Neither could the Mexican Government approve the agreement after having learned the declared purposes of the American Government to reserve to itself the power of sending future expeditions

into Mexico in pursuit of bandits. Under these conditions the Mexican Government either could not sign the agreement, for that would have been equivalent to agree, tacitly, to the announced policy of the American Government, or, in case, of signing it, it would have had to make appear there its protest against new attempts of violation to our territory, which would lead to a situation inconsistent with the conservation of peace between both countries, which is exactly what the Mexican Government tried to avoid by proposing the holding of these conferences.

The First Chief believes that mutual respect to the sovereignty of both countries being the only solid ground for the conservation of peace and good relations between Mexico and the United States, the solution to our difficulties must be sought in the co-operation for protecting and guarding the frontier, thus preventing and avoiding the causes of friction, instead of following the policies suggested by the American Government, that is, instead of sending future military expeditions into Mexico, which would do nothing but disturb such good relations.

As to the discussion of the other points the American Commission wishes to submit to the Mexican Delegates, the First Chief confirms the attitude we have assumed, to wit: that said subjects shall be discussed only as soon as the retirement of the troops is wholly effected, if fortunately some conclusion can be arrived at regarding the vigilance and protection of the border.

In short, the Constitutionalist Government is of the opinion that any agreement we may reach upon the withdrawal of the troops from the Mexican territory, must imply no consent, neither express nor tacit, to the actual occupation, without sanctioning for the future such occupation and without it being possible in the future to consider that a new expedition of American forces to Mexican territory would be authorized or tolerated.

The Mexican Delegates hope that it is possible to find a new form under the condition suggested by the First Chief, counting on the good will which undoubtedly exists on the part of the American Commissioners to obtain an agreement consistent with the respect due to our country's sovereignty.

We renew to you the assurances of our distinguished consideration, and remain, Yours very faithfully.

(Signed) Luis Cabrera, Ignacio Bonillas, A. J. Pani.

Then followed a discussion in regard to this note.

It was resolved to hold the next session tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10 a. m.

The assembly adjourned at 5:15 p. m.

(Doc. No. 172).

UNITED MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMISSION.

FIFTIETH SESSION.

Tuesday, December 19th, 1916.

Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Commission met at 10:30 a. m., Secretary Lane acting as Chairman.

The Mexican Commissioners proposed a few changes to the Protocol of Agreement.

At 11 a. m. the session adjourned to receive a visitor, the Mayor of Philadelphia, who presented his respects to the Commission.

At 11:10 a. m. the session reopened, and adjourned at 11:20 to meet again at 2:30 p. m.

The American Commissioners submitted to the Mexican Commissioners a response to their communiqué of December 18th. The answer is as follows:

Honorable Luis Cabrera, Honorable Ignacio Bonillas, Honorable Alberto J. Pani—Sirs: After a careful study of the Mexican Commissioners' proposals regarding changes to be made in the protocol, the American Commissioners are of the unanimous opinion that the proposed changes are neither practical nor prudent. Each one of the suggested changes had already been subjected to an extensive discussion of the whole Commission, and its members could not reach an agreement in regard to them.

In the opinion of the American Commissioners there is no reason for this protocol not being approved by both governments. After months of study and discussion the protocol was accepted by all the members of the Commission. It was the result of their best combined efforts to arrange the differences between both countries. It was submitted to the First Chief with the request that if he found it satisfactory, the Mexican Commissioners were empowered to proceed to the discussion of the other vital questions.

We have not insisted on the Mexican Government recognizing in us the right to occupy Mexican territory even in the new and momentous conditions which have prevailed; and it would not have been against spirit of our discussion if your Government had approved this document, with the reservations of rights and authority you judged desirable.

Such reservations could be inserted in the Minute, or added to the Protocol.

If Mexico rejects the Protocol as unsatisfactory, this puts an end to the functions of this Commission. If Mexico refuses to give the securities asked for, the effect is the same. If an agreement is reached the United States Government will take its troops out in strict compliance with the same. But the agreement for the withdrawal should be considered just as good as our promise. Refusing to acknowledge this fact, purports a lack of confidence in the good faith of the United States.

We would see with the deepest regret the unavoidable ending of the Commission's work, upon which we laid so much hope. We eagerly trust that this situation will be solved in such a way that it allows us to continue the consecutive study of those matters the arrangement of which will help to strengthen the friendship between Mexico and the United States.

We wish to remain, Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Franklin K. Lane, George Gray, John R. Mott.

Secretary Lane, in behalf of the American Commissioners, submitted the following declaration:

"It will be understood that if we get together for the discussion of the other questions, the American Commissioners will not ask that any definite solution be reached to said questions while the American troops are found in Mexico."

It was proposed and accepted to adjourn the sessions until the 2d of January, Tuesday, at 11. a. m., if a week from today, that is, on Tuesday, December 26th, 1916, the President of the Mexican and the American Commissions deem it necessary to summon again the United Commission.

(Doc. No. 173).

TELEGRAM.

New York, N. L. Y., December 21th, 1916.

Mr. Venustiano Carranza, First Chief, Queretaro, Queretaro (Mexico):

Day before yesterday we met at Philadelphia for the purpose of communicating to the American Commissioners your decision regarding the Protocol.

Mr. Pani rendered a verbal report, and we submitted a letter communicating the resolution in writing. Said letter substantially

says, that the Protocol was not approved because it contains conditions which, if accepted, would make the Mexican Government appear as consenting a posteriori to the occupation; that it could not be approved also by virtue of the declarations made by the American Government of its reserving to itself the right to enter Mexico as many times as it were necessary for the pursuit of bandits, because the approval of the protocol under such conditions might be taken for a tacit consent to future invasions of our territory; and, finally, that no other subject would be discussed while the American forces do not leave our territory.

The American Delegates insisted that the Protocol could be accepted as it is, the Mexican Government making the necessary reservations regarding the integrity of its sovereignty rights, so that said approval did not imply consent to the past occupation nor to any present or future one.

We having refused to take up again the disapproved Protocol, they asked us to give them our ideas regarding a new project of agreement satisfactory for the Mexican Government. In view of your instructions and of your telegram of the 17th, we submitted a project dealing exclusively with the immediate, continuous and unconditional withdrawal of the troops, and nothing else included.

The American Delegates answered us by letter that they considered our proposals neither practical nor prudent; that they never pretended to ask the Mexican Government to grant the United States Government the right to occupy its territory, not even in the exceptional and momentous circumstances which have existed; that they wished the protocol to be approved, the Mexican Government stating its reservations in the form it might wish, either in the note of ratification of the protocol or in an additional article of the protocol itself. The letter ends, saying that the conferences cannot be resumed if the Mexican Government rejects the protocol or does not agree to continue the discussion of the other subjects the American Commissioners wish to submit, and expressing, on one side, the assurances that the forces will leave Mexico in absolute conformity with the agreement, and on the other, the fact that not to recognize it purports a lack of confidence in the good faith of the American Government.

Finally, in the minute of the session the American Delegates recorded that in case we carried on the discussion of the subjects alluded to, they did not pretend to arrive at any agreement while the troops had not fully evacuated the Mexican territory, and that the conferences would be reopened only if the notification were received from the Mexican Government before the 26th inst., accepting the conditions of the American Delegation.

A special envoy which will leave today for that city, will hand you a detailed report and copy of all the above-mentioned documents.

We expect your instructions, to act in conformity with them, and definitively close up the conferences or reopen them.

We judge it to be our duty, in this regard, to tell you that our impression is that the American Government really wishes and needs to take its troops out of Mexico, and therefore it is certain that they would do it even before the time fixed in the protocol. What we consider as very difficult is that they resolve to take them out without our having sent forces to occupy the region as they leave it, because they do not want it to appear that they abandon the country in the hands of Villa. If we call off the conferences there will be no other endeavor for us to make but to go on demanding the evacuation until the American Government finds a good occasion to effect it under better auspices, when Villa may have been notoriously crushed or perhaps when constitutional order is re-established in Mexico. Once the conferences are suspended, anyhow, the diplomatic problem must remain unsolved and we have to care in preference for the crushing of Villa and to see to it that the permanence of the American forces in our territory does not bring us any greater complications.

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 174).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, December 26th, 1916.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, Philadelphia:

Your message of the 20th at hand. I read it till today on account of having found it hard to translate it. For no reason can I modify the instructions I gave you in writing and which Mr. Pani carried with himself regarding the Atlantic City Protocol. I must not approve it, and if this means the closing of the conferences, you may as well end them and have the Commission you preside over return here. Once the conferences are ended, you are hereby authorized to make a declaration to the press stating the truth of what has occurred and of the reason why the Commission could not reach an agreement satisfactory for both countries. Hearty greetings.

V. CARRANZA.

TELEGRAM.

New York, December 29th, 1916.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Please consult with First Chief upon his opinion regarding the following project we would like to submit to the American Commission, which is in perfect accordance with his instructions:

Article I.—The United States Government agrees to start taking out its forces from the Mexican territory immediately upon the ratification of this agreement, and to carry it out uninterruptedly, according to the following terms of this agreement until the total evacuation of said troops is effected.

Article II.—The American commander will determine the way to carry out the withdrawal so as to guarantee the security of the territory as it is evacuated.

Article III.—It is understood that the territory evacuated by the American troops will at once be occupied and protected by the Constitutionalist troops. The Mexican commander will determine the plan for the occupation and protection of the territory evacuated by the American forces.

Article IV.—The American and the Mexican commanders will see, either separately or in friendly co-operation, if it be possible, to the removal of any obstacles which may present themselves and tend to hinder the withdrawal.

Article V.—The retirement of the American forces shall be effected either directly up to Columbus or by the Mexican Northwestern Railroad line up to El Paso, Texas, or using both ways, just as the American Commander may deem it more expedient or convenient.

Article IV.—Each of the contracting governments will guard its own frontier. This, however, does not exclude any co-operation that may be possible between the military commanders of both countries.

Article VII.—This agreement will be in force from the very moment of its ratification by both governments; the notification of its approval is to be exchanged by both governments. Greetings.

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 176).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, January 1st, 1917.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation, McAlpin Hotel, New York:

By instructions of the First Chief, I beg to say that the Mexican Government cannot accept an agreement which implies any condition for the withdrawal of the American forces from our territory. The said forces must be taken out in an immediate, continuous and unconditional manner, in conformity with the instructions given to you in writing.

AGUILAR.

(Doc No. 177).

TELEGRAM.

New York, January 2d, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Telegram No. 142:

We, having rejected the former proposed protocol, in case of reopening the conferences have to submit a new project, and in order to be prepared for it, we sent you by wire the one we intended to submit, and which we considered as in perfect accordance with the First Chief's Instructions. In view of your telegram of yesterday, we request of you to tell us which of the proposed terms seemed unacceptable in the opinion of that Department, so as to bear them in mind in case of reopening the conferences. Your answer is anxiously expected.

LUIS CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 178).

TELEGRAM.

Queretaro, January 3d, 1917.

Mr. Luis Cabrera, President of the Mexican Delegation, New York, N. Y.:

In response to your message No. 142, I beg to say that the First Chief orders me to confirm the instructions you received lately to the effect that the withdrawal of the American forces must be immediate, continuous and unconditional through Columbus.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 179).

TELEGRAM.

New York, January 6th, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Telegram No. 145.

By orders of Messrs. the Mexican Commissioners, I beg to inform you that our Commission ended yesterday. According to the wishes of that Department and in compliance with the instructions repeatedly given us, on December 24th we notified the American Commissioners of the definitive disapproval of the protocol. I made them know that our desire was the withdrawal of the troops to be immediate, continuous and unconditional. The American Delegates asked time to think it over and make an answer, and after they consulted with President Wilson, Commissioner Mott came yesterday here to deliver their answer, worded in very cordial and courteous terms which purport the termination of our conferences. As to their probable effect, Mr. Cabrera wires today to the First Chief. Your message of the 3d, in which you add that the retirement of the troops must be effected through Columbus, arrived after we had received the American Commissioners' response. Intending to inform in writing, including all details, all steps are being taken for the return of the Commissioners' clerks, and the shipping of the files, except what our superiors may decide. Hearty greetings.

JUAN B. ROJO.

(Doc. No. 180).

TELEGRAM.

New York, January 6th, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.:

Telegram No. 146.

According to our telegraphic report of today, the December conferences having ended we again notified the American Commission that although the protocol had not been approved, we did not mean to give up the conferences but to discuss upon the base of the immediate, continuous and unconditional withdrawal of the American forces. John R. Mott came yesterday from Washington, bringing President Wilson's answer, according to which the conferences are ended. We shall meet again only to bid us good-by, thus corresponding to the cordial attitude the American Commissioners have assumed always with us. While declaring the conferences as ended, they expressed the idea that the most direct means will be the most efficacious for the solution of our difficulties, which seems to indicate that they expect to reopen the conferences after the withdrawal of the troops. In a letter we are drafting to answer the note of the American Commissioners, we express all the reasons which, in our opinion, justify the attitude of the Mexican Government and its Delegates. This same letter will serve as basis for a declaration to the press. Although the American Delegates gave to the press the protocol for publication, we have not deemed it convenient to appear as making any public declaration ourselves, because it might appear as if we had the intention of starting a controversy. The protocol was published, saying that no agreement was reached at the conferences. We believe that the American Government acts this way being convinced that it is more advantageous for the United States to take their troops out of Mexico without any agreement than with one under the conditions Mexico wishes, and we consider also that on account of the economic and political reasons, and, above all, in order to be absolutely free to act, the American Government will order the withdrawal of the forces. We therefore believe that despite what was published in the New York dailies on the 3d inst., the breaking up of the conferences is not a cause to think that our international situation is aggravated. In fact, the conferences have had the result that the American Government is now convinced of the necessity to take out its troops even without any agreement. The press of the last few days, undoubtedly by official suggestion, has been preparing the public opinion to jus-

tify the withdrawal of the forces,.... (some words are missing). As to the substantial part of our work, it may be considered as finished, and the only thing needed is a little effort, tactful, with ability and timeliness, on the part of our Foreign Office directly with the State Department, and the American Government will order the withdrawal. Although it would have been undoubtedly preferable to reach an agreement as to the protection of the border, to avoid the menace of constant pending difficulties with the United States, yet the retirement of the American forces by their own will is soon to become a fact (some words missing) provided we can redouble our efforts to prevent any occurrence at the border which might compel the American Government to carry out its threat to send new punitive expeditions. The resolution taken by the American Commissioners the day before yesterday, after conferring with President Wilson, and the announcement open'y made to send Fletcher to take charge of his post as Ambassador, all this means that the American Government wishes to deal directly with you. Arredondo's trip originated commentaries and hard tales about him, but it finally has been taken as a trip without any political meaning, although probably this incident forced the sending of Fletcher. Except for any new instructions from you, we shall start shipping our offices and files, and shall be in Queretaro before the end of this month.

CABRERA.

(Doc. No. 181).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, January 16th, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Queretaro:

Telegram No. 153.

By instructions of the Commissioners, I beg to say that we held today a meeting with American Commissioners exclusively to close the conferences. Their verbal declarations are to the effect that they left the withdrawal matter directly up to President Wilson, who will officially announce it very soon, sending also Ambassador Fletcher to resume diplomatic relations and negotiate the other matters. We are getting ready to go back there. Greetings.

JUAN B. ROJO.

(Doc. No 182).
TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, January 21st, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Queretaro:

Agent at Columbus informs me today that trucks arrived there with part of equipment and ammunition, and it is expected that next Wednesday first outposts of American troops will arrive.

E. SORIANO BRAVO, Consul.

(Doc. No. 183).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., January 23d, 1917.

Foreign Office, Mexico:

War Department announced today, with the approval of President Wilson, the withdrawal of Pershing's outposts from Mexico. The date to send Ambassador Fletcher to Mexico is not set as yet. According to official reports regarding lifting of embargo on arms, it has been considered, but nothing has thus far been decided, because the problems seems complicated to the American Government. It is assured that the same Government intends lifting the embargo as soon as it is certain that arms and ammunition will go to the legitimate authorities.

DENEGRI.

(Doc. No. 184).

TELEGRAM.

Juarez, Chihuahua, February 1st, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar:

Report coming from Columbus says main column of American troops will begin to arrive today, while General Pershing is expected at Palomas next Sunday. Greetings.

E. SORIANO BRAVO, Consul.

(Doc. No. 185).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, February 3d, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Queretaro:

According to telegram received here from a Captain of General Pershing's staff, this Chief with the rearguard of the American forces will today recross the boundary line at noon, at Palomas, which will complete the total evacuation of Mexican territory. Greetings.

E. SORIANO BRAVO, Consul.

(Doc. No. 186).

TELEGRAM.

Ciudad Juarez, February 5th, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Queretaro:

This morning marched across the border line into the United States, at Palomas, the expedition of American forces which, under the command of General Pershing, remained in our territory about one year. I have the honor to communicate these news to you, sending you my hearty congratulations. Greetings.

A. G. GARCIA.

(Doc. No. 187).

TELEGRAM.

Circular.

Bermúdez.—Mexican Legation.—Guatemala.

Alomía.—Mexican Legation.—San Salvador.

Ugarte.—Mexican Legation.—San José, (Costa Rica).

Breymann.—Mexican Legation.—Buenos Aires.

Fabela.—Mexican Legation.—Santiago de Chile.

Sánchez Fuentes.—Río de Janeiro.

Pérez Romero.—Mexican Legation.—Tokio.

Hernández, Compostela, 145.—Habana.

Yesterday in the morning the American forces of the Punitive expedition left our territory, not leaving in the Republic a single foreign soldier.

GARZA PEREZ.

VII.

MEXICO'S NEUTRALITY

(Doc. No. 1).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OFFICE, BUREAU OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

No. 319.

DECLARATION.

The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, declares and notifies all those whom it may concern, that Mexico will observe a strict neutrality in the armed conflict existing between Germany, Austria-Hungria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Japan, Montenegro, Russia and Serbia.

As a consequence of this declaration the necessary dispositions have been taken to comply fully with the Convention on Duties and Rights of the Neutral Powers in case of Maritime War, signed at La Hague on the 18th of October, 1917.

Mexico, September 25th, 1914. ISIDRO FABELA, Acting Secretary.

Note.—This Circular was inserted in No. 26 of "El Constitucionalista," a Mexican paper, on September 26th, 1916.

(Doc. No. 2).

DISMANTLING OF THE WIRELESS STATIONS ON BOARD
SHIPS NAVIGATING IN MEXICAN WATERS.

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, August 29th, 1914.

Sir: I have the honor to call your attention to the use of wireless apparatus in neutral countries in war times.

Several Powers, the United States of America specially, have already given orders forbidding the ships of belligerent nations to use their wireless apparatus while they navigate within national territorial waters, and this same was the line of conduct followed by His Majesty's Government on a previous occasion when the British Empire was neutral during a state of war.

It is manifest that use of such apparatus by the merchant marine of belligerent nations while they are within territorial waters, is very susceptible to be of such a nature as to oppose the observance of neutrality, since a neutral port may thus serve as a news station for war purposes.

I have received, therefore, instructions to express to the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico the sincere hope of His Majesty's Government that it will immediately issue the necessary orders to have all the wireless apparatus dismantled on board the ships now upon their coast or entering the limits of the territorial jurisdiction.

I avail this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Assistant Sub-Secretary and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Constitutionalist Government, Mexico:

(Doc. No. 3).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, August 29th, 1914.

Sir:

According to instructions I have received from my Government, I have the honor to call immediate attention of the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico to the Convention celebrated at The Hague on October 18th, 1907, and which is known as No. 13 of the Instruments signed at the Second Peace Conference, in which the Mexican United States took part, regarding the rights and duties of the neutral nations.

The rules of International Law enunciated therein obligated a neutral government to prevent the equipment, arming or clearing of any merchant ship intended for war purposes. This duty is specially marked in Article VII of the above-mentioned Convention.

It has been necessary for his Majesty's Government to ask the neutral Powers to exert the greatest vigilance toward avoiding the departure of any ships of German nationality which might be cap-

able of being used in that manner, if there exist any good ground to suspect such intentions, for the reason that said country claims to have the right to turn the merchant ships into men-of-war when they are in high seas.

A neutral Power is responsible for any damage caused to the commercial traffic, navigation or any other interests by a ship which has been transformed in that way in case that said Power has failed to use all diligence to prevent such ship from leaving the national jurisdiction.

Indications constituting reasonable cause of suspicion are the carrying of ammunition or of an exaggerated amount of fuel; any preparations to mount guns; the denial, in case the ship has passenger departments, to accept them on board, and, particularly, the fact that the ship be painted with war colors.

It is also a duty for the neutral Powers to refuse clearing papers to any ship moving in such way as to arouse suspicion, as well as to prevent the ship from leaving the national jurisdiction while a thorough investigation is carried out by the local authorities.

I have the honor to express the hope entertained by my Government that the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico will issue at once the necessary orders to avoid any breach of its neutrality, in case that such orders have not still been issued.

I avail this opportunity to renew you the assurances of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

Mr. Isidro Fabela, Assistant Sub-Secretary, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Constitutionalist Government of Mexico.

(Doc. No. 4).

In response to the note of that Legation regarding the dismantling of the wireless apparatus found on board of merchant ships of belligerent nations in the actual armed conflict of Europe, and which may enter our territorial jurisdiction, giving as a reason for it that the use of such apparatus in the said circumstances would be in opposition to Mexico's neutrality, since the Mexican ports might so be used as news bases for the countries engaged in the said conflict; and in which note you also mention the precedents set by the United States Government and His British Majesty's in similar cases, I have the honor to tell you that, according to the expressed reasons and because it is so demanded by the strict observance of the prescriptions of neutrality of nations in case of war, we are immediately sending the necessary orders to the War and Navy Department, that said office may see through the proper channels to the prohi-

oition of the use of wireless apparatus on board merchant ships of nations engaged in the present armed conflict, while such ships are in Mexican territorial waters.

Constitution and Reforms. Mexico, September 12th, 1914.

(Signed) ISIDRO FABELA,

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

To the Honorable Thomas B. Hohler, Chargé d’Affairs of Great Britain.—Present.

(Doc. No. 5).

This Department acknowledges receipt of that legation’s note by which His British Majesty’s Government remind the Mexican authorities of the stipulations of the Hague Convention of 1907, which among other dispositions includes the prohibition that must be dictated by the neutral Powers for all merchant ships considered as suspicious of entertaining the intention Germany is said to have, of turning the merchant ships under her flag into battleships when they are on the high seas.

In attention of the fact that Mexico was one of the countries which signed the Convention alluded to, this Government, in its character as neutral in the present European conflict, hastens to issue, through the corresponding departments, all the necessary orders tending to enforce and make respected the points referred to in your said note. To that purpose orders will be given to exert the closest vigilance and to prevent in all possible ways the leaving of Mexican ports by any ship belonging to the belligerent nations of the said conflict whenever there exist sound reasons to suspect warlike intentions on account of the ship’s attitude, and the most effectual diligence will be observed.

I assure Your Honor of my high consideration.

Constitution and Reforms. Mexico, September 12th, 1914.

(Signed) I. FABELA, Acting Secretary.

To His Honor T. B. Hohler, Chargé d’Affairs of Great Britain.—Present.

(Doc. No. 6).

Mexico, October 6th, 1914.

Honorable Sir:

The War and Navy Department, in note of September 30th, tells me the following:

"The notes of that Department, dated the 10th and the 12th inst., at hand, and we take note of the insertion you are pleased to make of the translation of notes received from the British Legation in this city, calling the attention of the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico to the Convention held at The Hague on October 18th, 1907, and the instrument known as No. 13 of those signed in the Second Peace Conference, in which the Mexican United States took part. That instrument refers to the rights and duties of the neutrals in case of a maritime war, and in the inserted notes is expressed the hope of the British Government that our Government will issue at once the necessary orders to prevent any breach of its neutrality, especially to prevent the merchant ships of the belligerent nations equipping or arming themselves or to sail outside the territorial jurisdiction for the object of being employed for war purposes, or their trying to use their wireless stations, thus acting as sources of wireless information connected with the war. In response to your above-mentioned notes I have the honor to tell you, by instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, that this Department is going to address telegraphic orders to the Port Captains and the commanders of our navy on the Gulf and the Pacific, to watch very closely within our territorial waters the equipment and arms of any merchant ship the belligerent nations may intend to use for war purposes, as well as to keep an eye on sailing ships which might be used in such way if there are sound reasons to suspect them of having any warlike intentions. The same vigilance will be exerted to prevent that such ships make use of their wireless stations, it being strictly forbidden within territorial waters. A similar telegraphic order was given to the same authorities to prevent belligerent war ships which have taken fuel or may take it in the future at any of our ports, to do it again if three months have ont fully elapsed from the first time, in compliance with Article 20 of the above-mentioned Convention. Besides these instructions which, as I say, were communicated by wire, this Department is addressing several notes by mail to the maritime authorities, enlarging the former instructions transmitted by wire and giving them new orders not included in such telegrams, all according to the principles estab-

lished in such Convention, the same orders being also transmitted to the military authorities concerned."

I had the honor to inform you of the above in reference to the note of that Legation dated the 29th of August, regarding the measures that should be adopted by the neutral Powers on account of present European conflict.

I renew to Your Honor the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) ISIDRO FABELA,

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 7).

Mexico, October 10th, 1914.

Honorable Chargé d'Affairs:

The Department of Transportation and Public Works tells to this Department in a note dated the 5th inst. what I have the pleasure to transmit to Your Honor for your knowledge and that of your Government.

"I take pleasure in answering your Note No. 11, dated September 12th. On this date and by wire the following order is given to the masters of the wire stations in all the ports of the Republic:

"In order to make effectual the neutrality of our country in the present European conflict, you will be pleased to order the merchant ships belonging to belligerent nations to lower their wireless masts while they remain in Mexican waters, which you will do, acting in accord with the Collector of Customs, so as to prevent any merchant ships from using their wireless apparatus for any war purposes."

I had the honor to transmit it to you, that your Department be pleased to obtain from the Financial Department the material support needed for the compliance of this order, so far as the Collectors of Customs are concerned.

I gladly avail this opportunity to renew to Your Honor the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) ISIDRO FABELA.

Honorable Thomas B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs of Great Britain.

(Doc. No. 8).

Mexico, October 29th, 1914.

Honorable Sir:

The Department of Finances and Public Debt tells this Department in Note No. 459, dated the 23d inst., what I have the pleasure to insert herein for the knowledge of Your Honor:

"In due answer to your kind Note No. 1013 of the 13th inst., I have the honor to tell you, in view of the indication you are pleased to make at the end of it, that on this date orders have been given to the Collectors of Customs to lend their material help to the chiefs of the wireless stations, in order that the merchant ships belonging to the belligerent nations which may have wireless apparatus, lower their masts while they remain in territorial waters, that the Mexican neutrality be thus respected."

I avail this opportunity to renew to Your Honor the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) ISIDRO FABELA,

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Honorable Thomas B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim from Great Britain, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 9).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, September 18th, 1914.

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the German warship "Leipzig" took fuel at Magdalena Bay or at La Paz on the 3d or 4th of last month, that is, after the declaration of the war between Germany and France, and that the same ship took fuel again at Guaymas on the 18th inst.

Now then, the Hague Convention of October 18th, 1917, the one known as the XIIIth of the instruments signed in the Second Peace Conference, of which the Mexican United States formed and still forms part, contains in its Chapter XX the prescription that no belligerent ship may take fuel at any port of a neutral country more than once in the course of three months.

While calling the attention of your Government to this fact, I have the honor to ask, according to instructions I have received from my Government, that the German warship "Leipzig" be not allowed to take again fuel at any Mexican port during the three months to be counted from September 8th, and that orders be sent to that effect, immediately, to all the civil, military and maritime authorities of the Pacific coast of this Republic.

I avoid this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

Honorable Isidro Fabela, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Mexico.

(Doc. No. 10).

Mexico, September 22d, 1914.

Honorable Sir:

Your Honor's kind note of the 18th inst. informs this Government of the indication you are pleased to make in behalf of the Government of His British Majesty, regarding the observance of Article XX of No. XIII of the instruments signed at the Second Conference of the Hague, of which Mexico formed part, said article containing the prohibition to all belligerent ships to get fuel in ports of neutral countries but once every three months. Your Honor speak concretely of the German warship "Leipzig," which some days ago took fuel at various Mexican ports on the Pacific.

I have the honor to answer Your Honor that, according to the instructions received from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, I have referred Your Honor's note to the War Department, suggesting that orders be given to act according to Your Honor's indications.

Please accept the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) ISIDRO FABELA,

Acting Secretary.

Honorable Thomas B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim of
Great Britain, Mexico.

Mexico, October 8th, 1914.

Honorable Sir:

The War and Navy Department, in a note of the 1st inst., tells me the following:

"Your kind Note No. 287 received, where you are pleased to transmit the note addressed to that Department by the Honorable Chargé d'Affairs of Great Britain in this Capital, communication that the German warship "Leipzig" took fuel at Magdalena Bay or La Paz on the 3d or 4th of last month, that is after war was declared between Germany and France, and then took fuel again at Guaymas on the 8th of September, on which account the said representative calls the attention of our Government to the prohibition contained in Article XX of the Convention No. XIII of the Instruments signed at the Second Peace Conference of The Hague, on October 18th, 1907, and asks, in behalf of this Government, that immediate instructions be given to prevent the above-mentioned ship from getting more fuel from any Mexican port before three months counted from the date it took fuel at Guaymas. In due answer I have the honor to advise you, by instructions of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, that, as I have already expressed to the Department under your worthy charge, in Notes 1914 and 1976 of September 30th, telegraphic instructions were given to all the port captains and commanders of our navy, confirmed by mail, instructing them to obey strictly the principles established at the Convention, recommending them especially, while making reference to Article XX, that whenever a man-of-war of any of the belligerent nations takes fuel in any of our ports, the authorities must give telegraphic advice to all the maritime authorities along the coast, in order to prevent the same ship from taking new fuel before the three months established by the Convention.

"Nevertheless, this Department will instruct again the commander of the port of Guaymas concretely regarding the German ship "Leipzig," demanding his full compliance with the orders he has received, and to notify the other commanders of the ports along the Pacific coast on the exact date the ship takes fuel, to prevent any further repetition of that fact."

I had the honor to transmit this note, in reference to Your Honor's note dated the 18th of last month.

Please accept the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) I. FABELA,

Acting Secretary.

Honorable T. B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim from
Great Britain, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 12).

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE.

Veracruz, December 10th, 1914.

First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Veracruz, Veracruz:

Excellency:

In regard to our conversation of this morning, I have received instructions from my Government to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the conditions along the Naco border are becoming very serious. A considerable number of Americans have been wounded by bullets shot from across the boundary line, and many of them died of the wounds. The chiefs of both factions of Mexicans either do not want or cannot control the forces under their command. We request of you very urgently to send instructions to the chiefs under your command, warning them not to permit any further violation of the rights of American citizens. If the authorities cannot prevent the shooting across the border, it will become necessary for this Government, much to its sorrow, to take the necessary steps to protect the lives of Americans now threatened, employing the necessary force, not in an aggressive mode but only as a defense, and without the intention to invade the Mexican territory nor to interfere in any way with its sovereignty or the rights of the Mexicans to solve by themselves their own difficulties.

Renewing to you the assurances of my personal regard, I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM W. CANADA, American Consul.

Veracruz, December 12th, 1914.

Mr. Consul:

I have received a copy of Mr. Bryan's telegram you were pleased to send me, relating to accidents occurred at the boundary line near Naco, and in regard to such telegram allow me to tell you that so far as concerns the Constitutionalist forces under General Benjamin Hill, this chief has a perfect control over them. Although it is impossible that the bullets of the Constitutionalist troops occupying Naco could ever wound American citizens on the other side of the line, that is, at our soldiers' rear, I have sent already and am again transmitting special and express orders to prevent any similar accidents.

I have no news regarding any violations to the rights of American citizens committed in Mexico, and I sincerely deplore that any accidents should occur, and it would be desirable, for the effects of the responsibilities for damages caused, that the Secretary of State were pleased to investigate whether such accident really happened through recklessness of the fighting forces or through imprudent curiosity of the American citizens, because I personally remember that in 1911, during the attack of the Maderista forces on Ciudad Juarez, a great number of accidents were due to the imprudence or temerity of the El Paso residents, who occupied all elevated places to amuse themselves with the battle, just as if it had been a festival.

Mr. Bryan says in his telegram that the use of armed force would not be an aggression but a defense; that there would not be the intention of invading the Mexican territory, nor to violate our sovereignty, nor to intervene in our strifes.

I hasten to call the Department's attention to the fact that any action of armed forces intended by the United States in Mexican territory, even though for the sole purpose of protecting American lives, would have to be considered by this Government as an act of hostility and as an attack on Mexico's sovereignty, independently from the sane and peaceful intentions with which the use of armed force were disguised.

The Constitutionalist forces being occupying Naco, and those of General Villa being attacking it, any intervention of the American forces to stop the fight would have in fact the character of a measure adopted exclusively against the Constitutionalist forces and in behalf of the Villistas, for the use of armed forces would in the last result reduce to impotence or divert the attention of the Constitutionalist soldiers, leaving the Villa men free to continue their military operations.

I would like to find expressions courteous and friendly enough, and at the same time expressive enough, to tell you that the State Department does not appreciate in all its importance the seriousness of using the American forces in Mexican territory, and, therefore, I beg to appeal to the good friendship of the American people toward the Mexican people, insisting in all earnestness with the State Department to endeavor that no acts of force be executed on any account against us.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

Mr. W. W. Canada, United States Consul, City.

(Doc. No. 14).

ENGLAND APPEALS TO OUR NEUTRALITY—WIRELESS

STATIONS ON BOARD THREE GERMAN SHIPS.

I have the honor to address myself to you to inform you that I have received advice from Mr. T. B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs from Great Britain in Mexico, communicating that there are at Tampico three German merchant ships which have remained there from the beginning of the war and have on board wireless installations.

As in these cases the law precribes that said apparatus be taken from the ships and deposited in the Custom House of the port where the ships lay until they sail off again, Mr. Hohler directs me to request of you, with all attention, to issue orders to the custom or military authorities of Tampico to proceed at once to comply with the above-mentioned international disposition.

I beg to express to you the assurances of my kindest and most distinguished consideration.

British Consulate, Veracruz, January 18th, 1915.

(Signed) J. S. HUTCHINSON, British Consul.

Mr. Jesus Urueta, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Veracruz.

(Doc. No. 15).

Mr. Consul:

The War and Navy Department, in Note No. 3535, tells me the following:

"The kind note of that Department under your worthy charge, No. 205, dated the 19th inst., at hand, and we take notice of the communiqué you are pleased to insert, addressed to you by the Honorable British Consul, who says that the Honorable T. B. Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs of Great Britain in Mexico, has been informed of the existence of three German merchant ships at Tampico having wireless installations, and he requests that, according to law, such apparatus be taken off the ships and deposited at the Custom House of the port. I have the honor to advise you that on this date it was ordered to the Military Commander of Tampico to take from the said ships the wireless installations and deposit them at the Custom House of the port, to be returned to said ships when they are ready to sail off."

I have the honor to transmit this to you, as a result of your note of January 18th, renewing the assurances of my consideration.
Veracruz, February 2d, 1915.

(Signed) **E. GARZA**

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. J. S. Hutchinson, Consul of His British Majesty, City.

(Doc. No. 16).

Officers of the German cruiser "Kronprinz Wilhelm," who fled on board the yacht "Eclipse."

Mexico, October 25th, 1915.

To the Chief of the Bureau on International Affairs:

The State Department at Washington tells me by wire on the 23d inst. the following:

"On the 10th inst. six officers of the German cruiser "Kronprinz Wilhelm," which was interned at the docks of Norfolk, Virginia, were granted a leave to go ashore and return at 8 o'clock of the evening of October 11th. These men, disregarding their pledge, have never returned, and they are supposed to be on board the yacht "Eclipse," which has also disappeared. The description of these men is as follows: Heinrich Hoffman (who bought the "Eclipse,") age, 25 years; 5 feet 9 inches high; broad shoulders; clean shaved; blue eyes; light hair; weighs 100 pounds. Heinrich Rudebush, 28 years old; very tall and slender; six feet 2 inches

high; protruding features; scarce moustache; blue eyes; light hair; weighs 175 pounds. Wilhelm Frostreuter, 28 years old; 5 feet 7 inches high; somewhat stout; light hair; blue eyes; penetrating eye; very shy, weighs 160 pounds. Erich Biermann, 26 years old; very tall: 6 feet 5 inches; short waist; big nose; dark chestnut hair; reddish complexion; dark eyes; clean shaved; weighs 155 pounds. Julius Lustfeeld, 30 years old; 5 feet 6 inches high, slim; wears glasses; very short-sighted; blue eyes; light hair; clean shaved; weighs 160 pounds. The "Eclipse" is a gasoline yacht, with a cover and two masts, figure-head and elliptic helm. Registered length 48.8; width, 16.7; draught, 5.9; official letter, K. D. W. N. Official number, 135,504; net tonnage, 23. The above-given figures are carved in the topmast of the ship, which is painted white. Please inform the "De Facto" Government of Mexico of the above, and request that if such individuals should arrive in its jurisdiction they be held. (Signed) LANSING."

I beg to inform you on the above, that you may be pleased to communicate it to whom it may correspond for the consequential effects.

Without any further particular, I avail this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) CHARLES B. PARKER.

Representing the American Interests.

(Doc. No. 17).

Mexico, October 29th, 1915.

Honorable Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your kind note dated the 25th inst., regarding the capturing of six German sailors.

It is highly pleasing for me to tell you that orders have been given to the authorities of the Gulf coast to preceed as you request in case the said marines be found within the Mexican jurisdiction.

I avail this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

M. DAVAIOS,

Acting Secretary.

Mr. Charles B. Parker, Representative of the American Interests, City.

(Doc. No. 18).

"Zelandia," an American steamer, searched by the British steamship "Isis."

TELEGRAM.

State Capitol, Merida, Yucatan, November 9th, 1915.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I am transmitting today the following to the First Chief: "I have the honor to inform you that on the 5th inst., when the American steamer "Zelandia" was anchored in Mexican waters, that is, within the territorial zone, a British cruiser came along and searched the American boat. Her Captain appealed to me, denouncing the violation. The Collector of Customs addressed himself on that account to the Navy and Foreign Departments, and I keep a protest signed by the Captain of the American steamship. The British cruiser is outside the territorial zone, but close to the American ship. (Signed) S. ALVARADO."

I am transmitting to you the above, requesting your opinion. Hearty greetings.

General S. ALVARADO.

(Doc. No. 19).

TELEGRAM.

Saltillo, Coahuila, November 15th, 1915.

Mr. Edward Grey, Foreign Minister, London, England:

The Governor and Military Commander of the State of Yucatan, General Salvador Alvarado, informs the First Chief in charge of the Executive Power that on the 5th inst. a British cruiser now found outside the territorial waters of this country in front of the port of Progreso, sent a boat with armed crew to search the American steamship "Zelandia," which was anchored in the same port,

in Mexican waters, and the Captain of the American ship addressed himself to the Governor, protesting against the violation he was subjected to, asking for protection. I have the honor to inform you on the case, and at the same time I express to Your Excellency that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Republic, demands of the British Government a full satisfaction for this violation of Mexico's neutrality expressly declared, and that orders be issued to have punished the officers and other members of the crew of the British cruiser who may be responsible for the above described violation. I avail this opportunity to offer to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) ACUÑA,

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 29).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, November 19th, 1915.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram from the Secretary of State and Foreign Relations of His Majesty regarding the recent visit made to the ship "Zelandia" by a British warship.

It seems that His Excellency, Mr. Jesus Acuña, Acting Secretary of Foreign Relations, is under the impression that a violation has occurred to the Mexican neutrality regarding that visit, since he recently wired His Majesty's Secretary of State protesting against said ship's visit, as though it occurred in Mexican waters.

Acting in accordance with instructions from my Government, I have the honor to assure you that the reports received in this regard by His Excellency Mr. Acuña, must be wrong, because no breach of neutrality has ever occurred. To be more precise, the visit of the "Zelandia" was made some 419 yards outside the limit of territorial waters. As I am informed, it is true that the Captain of the "Zelandia" protested against the visit, basing his action on the fact that such visit was made within territorial waters, but he protested only when the visit was through, and his objection to it had all the appearance of an afterthought.

While putting these facts in your knowledge, I dare express the trustful hope that they will banish any doubt which may exist in the mind of the Constitutionalist Government that the British authorities had not acted in this matter with the most scrupulous respect for the rights of the neutrals, and at the same time I request of you to advise Mr. Acuña, by the swiftest way, of the facts regarding this incident, which, according to my instructions, must be communicated to him.

I avail this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) E. W. P. THURSTAN.

Mr. M. Davalos, etc., etc., etc., Foreign Office, City.

(Doc. No. 21).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, November 26th, 1915.

General Salvador Alvarado, Governor and Military Commander of the State, Merida, Yucatan:

In reference to incident steamship "Zelandia," British Chargé d'Affairs by orders of his Government says to this Department that the visit made to that steamer occurred 419 yards out of the limit of territorial waters; that Captain of the ship protested only when the visit was through, and offered as excuse that the visit had been practiced within Mexican waters, his objection having all the appearance of being an afterthought; and that the British authorities acted with scrupulous respect for the rights of neutrals.

By instructions of the First Chief, in charge of the Executive Power, I request of you to investigate very urgently these facts and report them immediately, so that we can present them in our reply and maintain our attitude of emphatic protest, demanding a reparation if our rights were violated, or accepting the explanation given by the British Chargé if it proves true. Hearty greetings.

ACUÑA, Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR AND NAVY.

The Captain of the Port of Progreso, in Communiqué No. 105, dated the 6th inst., tells to this Department the following:

"In Note No. 101, dated yesterday, I told the British Consul at this port the following: "Captain Paul Levantier of the American steamship "Zelandia" tells me, in application of this date, what follows:

"I, the undersigned, Captain of the American steamer "Zelandia," by this present make it known to the Chief of the Port of Progreso, Yucatan, Mexican Republic, that the American steamer "Zelandia," under my command, is anchored to the northeast of Progreso, A. I., within the limits of the port. At five o'clock this morning a cruiser bearing no visible name and flying the British flag, approached Progreso and anchored about a quarter of a mile to the northeast of my ship. Then he made signals of sending a boat. The boat came to the side of my ship at 6:30 in the morning, and two officers and four or five marines armed with rifles and other weapons boarded my ship. The leading officer demanded my papers, whom I informed that the American Consul and the Custom authorities of the port had them, and then he asked me to send one of the officers of my ship to port in their boat to bring the papers, to which I objected. After asking a few questions, the British sailors made a visit to my ship through all her departments, searching all about. I verbally protested against this act, and when they were through with their visit I asked the leading officer to record all this in my binnacle book. The said officer refused to do it, as also he refused to give me the cruiser's name. I protested against the visit made to my ship, because she was within three miles from the port and under the vigilance of the Mexican authorities. The leading officer reported to the cruiser all the above, from the deck of my ship, by means of signaling flags, also informing the Captain of the cruiser that I considered my ship to be within the three miles from the port. The Captain's answer was that he did not agree with my opinion. After a short time there arrived another boat of the cruiser with orders for the leading officer to leave my ship with his men, which he did. Said men left my ship at 8:30 a. m., and allow me to say that a little afterward Dr. Hernandez, Port Physician, who had already made his visit to my ship, made me another visit during which he stated that the name of the ship was "Iris," and she had arrived from Jamaica. I solemnly protested before you, Mr. Collector of Customs, against the offense committed to my ship and the

visit made to the same by armed men from a warship belonging to a nation now at war, my ship being within three miles from the port and under the protection of the authorities of the Mexican Republic. Which I have the honor to transmit to you, asking you for more detailed information on the subject."

I renew the assurances of my high consideration.

Mr. J. ACUÑA, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, City.

(Doc. No. 23).

Office of the First Pilot of the Port, Yucatan—To the Port Captain: Complying with your orders contained in Note 104, I visited today the American S.S. "Zelandia" at 1 o'clock p. m., the result of my inspection being that said vessel is within Mexican territorial waters. Her exact location is S. 40E of the sea-compass; total correction of course 10 degrees E arc of the sextant 0-22, height of the light house 115 feet, and $6\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms in middle tide, resulting 2 $\frac{7}{10}$ miles from shore.

Respectfully,

(Signed) V. REPPETTO,

First Pilot.

Progreso, November 6, 1915.

Annotations:

Nov. 8, 1915.—Captainship of Progreso.—Field on above date,

—Signature of the Port Captain.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, D. F.

(Doc. No. 24).

TELEGRAM.

Merida, Yuc., December 1st, 1915.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

The Military Commander of Progreso reports as follows:

"In compliance with your telegraphic orders of this date, I have the honor to send you herewith the original of report rendered by the First Pilot of this Port addressed to me under instructions of this office, wherein as you will see the said Pilot informs that the U. S. S.S. "Zelandia" was within Mexican territorial waters when he proceeded to make the investigation asked by that superior office. The same Pilot reports that the search made by the British S.S. "Isis" on the American S.S. "Zelandia" took place about 8 o'clock in the morning, and that he received orders to see if such vessel was in Mexican waters at 1 o'clock p. m., and for this reason he cannot affirm whether the "Zelandia" was within the zone any earlier, for he explains that just by weighing anchor a ship is dragged by the tide, and it is easy to conceive that said ship may have been outside the zone at the time she was searched; that this is merely a supposition he makes. The only thing he is positive of is that the "Zelandia," was in Mexican waters when the Pilot made the inspection, and that the search had already been made."

The despatch alluded to in the preinserted communication reads as follows:

"To the Military Commander: According to your orders contained in Note 1877, I went on board the U. S. S.S. "Zelandia" today at 1 p. m., and saw that the vessel is in Mexican waters. Her exact location is S. 40 E of the sea-compass; total correction of course 10 degrees E arc of the sextant 0-22, height of the light house, 115 feet, and 6½ fathoms in middle tide, resulting 2-7|10 miles from shore."

Greetings.

SALVADOR ALVARADO, Commanding General.

(Doc. No. 25).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, April 19, 1916.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Although it arose when you had not taken charge of that office, maybe you do know of the S.S. "Zelandia" question. This vessel had left port under very suspicious circumstances from a belligerent point of view, for its cargo as well as for her papers, and the port she was bound to, having left a port of the United States last October, and being closely watched; the ship took the way to Progreso, where it was searched by H. M's Ship "Isis."

When the search was made no claim was made, but later on the ship's agents, who are believed to be subjects of enemy countries, complained to the port authorities, and their objections were communicated to me by Your Excellency's Department in two notes dated November 23d and December 3d.

I discussed verbally the case with Your Excellency's predecessor, Mr. Acuña, and with other officials of the Foreign Office, who had the kindness of manifesting themselves entirely satisfied with the explanations I could offer them.

The best proof that no attempt was made against the sovereignty of the Mexican Republic within its territorial waters, consists in the fact that this Legation has not received any claim to that effect; on the other hand, the declarations of His Majesty's officials annul the allegations that have been made of such act having been committed. Such are the facts I have already acquainted Your Excellency's predecessor with and which were frankly accepted by him. I also informed him, and now I repeat it, that the last thing that could form part of my Government's wishes and intentions would be the least offense against the sovereignty of the Mexican Government within the zone of its territorial waters.

However, it is undoubtedly impossible to be clear enough in such transcendental matters as this. If, as I do not believe it to be the case, the Mexican Government should have any motive of complaint against His Majesty's, I entreat you to let me know if it.

If, on the contrary, the incident may be considered elucidated, I shall thank Your Excellency to confirm me in my belief.

Believe me, my dear General Aguilar,

Very Sincerely Yours,

(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

(Doc. No. 26).

Progreso, Nov. 13, 1915.

To His Excellency General Candido Aguilar, Mexico:

On the 5th of November, 1915, in the early morning, while the U. S. steamship "Zelandia" was anchored within the limits of the maritime zone belonging to the Mexican Republic at the port of Progreso, the British cruiser "Isis," which had also anchored on that very morning within the Mexican maritime zone, sent armed forces on board the S.S. "Zelandia," which made a thorough in-

spection on this ship. On the following day in the morning it weighed anchor and placed herself outside the maritime zone, but just as close to the S.S. "Zelandia" as possible, with her guns aiming at this vessel, while during the night the "Isis" made frequent use of her reflectors to watch the "Zelandia."

According to the information we have, the action of that British man-of-war was due to orders received from the English Government as a result of false reports made by the British consuls residing in Yucatan.

That you may know the case, we beg to furnish that office with the following details of the voyage made by said vessel to Progreso and the journey it intended from Progreso to other ports.

The above-mentioned ship took at the port of Pensacola 645 tons of resin for Malmoe, Swede. and a cargo of coke for the port of Tampico. When she arrived to this last port she drew 23 feet, and on account of there being at present little water in the spar of Tampico, the ship remained outside, waiting from the 6th to the 20th of October without being permitted by that reason to pass over it, and the water having failed to raise, the S.S. "Zelandia" received orders to go on to Progreso via Campeche.

On account of the coke having remained on board, no henequen was taken at Campeche, and as soon as she arrived at Progreso the unloading of coke was started. Some one thousand tons of that fuel were unloaded at this port, and on account of the intervention of the British warship and of so many rumors caused by such intervention, which constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the Mexican Republic as well as a breach to its neutrality, the ship did not take its cargo of one hundred tons of hides and three thousand bales of henequen, for the shippers feared lest the British warship should capture the S.S. "Zelandia" on leaving this port and would take her to a British port, thus causing a considerable delay in the delivery of the cargo that they would return.

For the same reason, fearing that the ship might suffer another affront upon her departure from Progreso, the charterers of the steamer, "Agencia Comercial y Maritima, S. A.," of Tampico, were forced to abandon the intended trip of the vessel from New York to Sweden.

The impossibility of obtaining cargo in the port of Progreso for New York on account of the exporters refusing to give any, and the forced abandonment of the trip from New York to Sweden, caused the charterers considerable damages and loss, and in behalf of the "Agencia Comercial y Maritima" of Tampico and of the consignees of this port, we do hereby most emphatically protest before that authority against the action of the British cruiser "Isis," taken by orders received from the English Government, the said charterers, shippers and all the people interested in this business reserving, as we ourselves do, all the right assisting us to present

our claim against the British Government for the losses we have sustained, and we respectfully request of that Department its protection to make effective such claims against the said English Government.

Respectfully,

VELA AND FABRICIUS.

(Doc. No. 27).

Mexico, November 23d, 1915.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

Honorable Sir:

Messrs. Vela and Fabricius of Progreso, Yucatan, have presented to this Department the claim herein inserted for the due knowledge of Your Honor:

Progreso, November 13th, 1915.—In regard to the claim put before this Maritime Custom Office by Captain Paul Devantier of the U. S. S. "Zelandia" against the inspection of his ship by armed forces of the British cruiser "Isis" within the maritime zone of the Mexican Republic, I have the honor to inform you that this intervention was provoked, according to trustworthy reports, by the attitude of the British Vice-Consul in this port, Mr. De Courci, or the British Consul in Merida, Mr. Arthur Peirce, who used the national wire service of the Republic and the mail to send reports to their superiors which are false and absolutely lacking any foundation. The above-named ship took on board at Pensacola 645 tons of resin for Malmoe, Sweden, and a cargo of coke for the port of Tampico. Upon her arrival at the latter port the ship in reference drew 23 feet of water and the fathom being insufficient at the spar of Tampico, the vessel remained outside in waiting from the 6th to the 20th of October, it having been impossible to pass it. In view that the water did not raise, the ship received orders to go on to Progreso via Campeche.

"The coke having remained on board, no henequen could be taken at Campeche, and once the ship arrived at Progreso she unloaded here some 1,000 tons. But the intervention of the British warship and the many rumors which were started on account of it—which was a violation of Mexico's sovereignty as well as of its neutrality—the vessel did not obtain a cargo of 100 tons of hides and 3,000 bales of henequen she should have taken for New York, because the shippers expressed their fear lest the English ship might

capture the "Zelandia" on her departure from Progreso and take her to a British port, thus causing a considerable delay in the delivery of the cargo that would be returned.

"Of course, all this has been a serious prejudice against that ship and her charterers, for they not only lost the freight charges on the henequen, amounting to \$7,000.00 Am. Cy., and the same on the hides, amounting to \$900.00 Am. Cy., but as a consequence of the happenings mentioned above they have been forced to abandon their trip from New York to Sweden, which, in view of the circumstances, would have given occasion to more transgressions and delays.

"For the reason expressed in behalf of all the interested parties, we do solemnly protest before that high Department against the action of the British consuls, which implies a serious violation to the sovereignty of this country and an act against the genuine interests of the same."

I repeat Your Honor the assurances of my very kind consideration.

(Signed) M. DAVALOS,

Acting Secretary.

Hon. E. W. P. Thurstan, Consul General, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim from Great Britain, Present.

**CIRCULAR PRINTED NOTES REFERRING TO ACTS OF
CRUELTY IMPUTED TO THE GERMANS IN THE WAR AND
WHICH WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO SEVERAL
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.**

(Doc. No. 28).

Mexico, November 21st, 1915.

Legation of the German Empire.—Mexico.

Honorable Sir:

From trustworthy sources I have received the news that large amounts of copies of the printed circular note you will find herewith have been delivered to various Executive Departments of the Constitutionalist Government for the purpose that through said Departments the circulars be distributed among the Mexican public.

In my opinion there is no reason for the Constitutionalist Government, being neutral, lending such political service to the Russian Government, since, apart from other considerations, that country has not recognized the Administration so worthily presided by His Excellency Don Venustiano Carranza, True it is that we have addressed ourselves to the Government represented by your Honor with communications regarding outrages committed by our enemies, but always having in view exclusively our duty to inform the same Government, never looking to propagate such informations through it.

Therefore I request of Your Honor (and hope that my wishes in this regard shall be heeded) to please give at once the necessary orders to all dependencies of the Government to refrain themselves from helping to the circulation of said printed circular note.

I avail this opportunity to renew to Your Honor the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

VON ECKARDT.

Honorable Director of International Affairs, Foreign Office,
Present.

(Doc. No. 29).

Mexico, November 27, 1915.

To His Excellency H. von Eckardt, Special Diplomatic Agent of
the German Empire, Present:

Honorable Sir:

I have the honor to refer to Your Honor's kind note dated the 21st inst., which during my absence you were pleased to address to the Director of International Affairs, wherein you expressed to have received news to the effect that to several Executive Departments of the Constitutionalist Government had been distributed large amounts of copies of a printed sheet from the Russian Consulate to be put in circulation among the Mexican public.

In due reply I dare say that my personal opinion is that the reports given to Your Honor are far from the truth, for this Government from the beginning of the actual European war has never deviated in the least from the strict neutrality adopted in regard to such conflict, and it has always ordered the several dependencies of the Administration and the papers depending from it to refrain from taking any part with the backing of their official character in favor of the cause of either of the contending nations.

However, in accordance with your wishes I am addressing myself to the Executive Departments of this Government, in order that in case the facts you kindly inform me of were true in the least, they refrain absolutely from meddling directly or indirectly in such matters.

It is a pleasure for me to renew you the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

JESUS ACUÑA.

“NOORDAM.”—A BRITISH SHIP WHICH INTERCEPTED MAIL AND SECURITIES SENT BY THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF ANTWERP TO THE “BANCO HIPOTECARIO DE CREDITO TERRITORIAL MEXICO” OF THIS CITY.

(Doc. No. 30).

London, March 8th, 1916.

Consulate of the United States of Mexico.

No. 174.

I have the honor to send you herewith copy of a note addressed me by the Attorney General of this Kingdom, informing that among the papers taken from the ship “Noordam” securities were found which the “Banque de Commerce” of Antwerp sent to the Banco Hipotecario de Credito Territorial Mexicano, of Mexico City. As you will be pleased to see, the Attorney General wishes the addressee to be informed on the occurrences.

I renew to you the assurances of my most distinguished and respectful consideration.

(Signed) ALFONSO ACOSTA.

Honorable Secretary of State, in charge of the Foreign Office, -
Queretaro.

(Doc. No. 31).

Treasury.—Whitehall S. W.—March 5, 1916.

S. S. "Noordam."—Finances.

Sir:

I have instructions from the Attorney General of H. M. to inform you that the securities mentioned below have been detained in the mail brought in this ship, and I request of you to have the kindness of taking the steps you may deem convenient to give an account of it to the addressees.

Remits. "Banque de Commerce," Antwerp.

Addressee, "Banco Hipotecario de Credito Territorial Mexicano, Mexico.

Contents.	Credit Foncier Mexicain.
10 shares 257 frs each.....	£102.8
16 coupons frs. 6.425 each.....	4.8
Total.....	£106.8

I am Sir, Your true servant,

(Signed) R. W. WOOD.

To Consul General of Mexico, Broad Street House, E. C.

(Doc. No. 32.)

Queretaro, April 10th, 1916.

In note dated March 8th, our Consul in London reports as follows:

"I have the honor to send you herewith copy of a note addressed to me by the Attorney General of this kingdom, informing that among the papers taken from ship "Noordam" securities were found which the "Banque de Commerce" of Antwerp sent to the "Banco Hipotecario de Credito Territorial Mexicano" of Mexico City. As you will be pleased to see, the Attorney General wishes the addressee to be informed on the occurrences."

I inserted the above for your information, expressing at the same time that the securities alluded to are as follows:

10 shares of the "Credit Foncier Mexicain,"	257
Frs. each.....	£102-8-8
16 coupons, 6.425 Frs. each.....	4-0-0
Total.....	£106-8-0

(Signed) AGUILAR.

Manager, "Banco Hipotecario de Crédito Territorial Mexicano,"
Mexico, D. F.

(Doc. No. 33).

Mexico, April 24, 1916.

I have the honor to insert herewith the following petition made by the "Banco Hipotecario de Credito Territorial Mexicano," on the 16th inst.:

"In reference to your kind Note No. 112, dated the 10th inst., and we took note of the communication addressed to you by the Consul in London as well as of the fact that among the papers taken from the S.S. "Noordam" 10 shares and 16 coupons were found which belong to this institution. Since the said securities were remitted to this Bank by our corresponding agent in Antwerp and we need have them, we shall appreciate very much if through the legal channels the proper action is taken so as to have the Attorney General of the English Kingdom give his orders to have such securities sent to us.

I request of you to please use your good offices in order that H. M.'s Government return to the "Banco Hipotecario de Credito Territorial Mexicano" the ten bonds and sixteen coupons referred to in the inserted petition.

Thanking you in advance, I take pleasure in assuring you once more of my distinguished consideration and personal regard.

Constitution and Reforms.

AGUILAR,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Honorable Thomas Beaumont Hohler, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim of Great Britain, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 34).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, July 19, 1916.

Mr. Secretary:

As soon as I received Your Excellency's Note No. 1251, dated April 24, wherein you ask for the return to the Banco Hipotecario of certain bonds and coupons which were taken from the S.S. "Noordam," I hastened to communicate its contents to my Government.

I have just received its reply, dated the 14th ultimo, where I am informed that as a result of the investigation ordered at once it has been known certain securities apparently like those in question have been placed at the disposal of the Court of Prizes as goods come from the enemy, alleging that the package proceeded from territory occupied by the enemy; that it was not accompanied by any document, and that the interior wrapping of the securities had the seal of the Department of Banks of the German Government in Antwerp.

Therefore, any claim in regard to this case must be addressed by the interested parties to said Court of Prizes.

I avail this opportunity to renew to you Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) **T. B. HOHLER.**

To His Excellency General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico.

BRITISH SHIPS TOUCHING MEXICAN PORTS CARRYING ARMS FOR THEIR DEFENSE.—THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE ASKS WHAT ATTITUDE WOULD THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ADOPT TOWARD SUCH SHIPS.

(Doc. No. 35).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, September 1st, 1916.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your Excellency is undoubtedly acquainted with the fact that all countries treat merchant ships of belligerent nations which have

been armed merely for self-defense in the same way as ordinary armed ships.

There is a number of British ships touching ports of this country and carrying arms for their self-defense; but in deference to any susceptibility of the Mexican Government regarding this point, such ships have had the custom up to now to stop on their way at Bermuda Islands, leaving there their arms and taking them up again when going back, which of course means some delay. Therefore I request of Your Excellency to please tell me if there could be any objection on the part of the Mexican Government to said merchant ships entering Mexican ports with their arms on board just as any unarmed ship.

Believe me, Your Excellency,

Very, sincerely yours,

(Signed) T. B. HOHLER.

To His Excellency General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 36).

Mexico, October 4, 1916.

I have the honor to refer to your Memorandum, dated the 2d inst., as well as to the letters of Mr. T. B. Hohler, dated the 1st and 14th of last month, relating to the permit requested by the British Government to have the English merchant ships touch Mexican ports carrying on board the necessary arms for their defense.

In due answer to such notes, I beg to say that the Government of Mexico considers that it would fail to comply with its duties as neutral in the actual European conflict by granting the permit alluded to; and therefore, in order that the Mexican Government be not considered as one-sided, I regret to say that it is not possible to consent to the wishes of His British Majesty.

I renew you the assurances of my kindest consideration and personal regard.

AGUILAR,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Honorable E. W. P. Thurstan, Consul General and Chargé of the British Legation, Mexico.

GERMAN SUBMARINES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

(Doc. No. 37).

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, October 26, 1916.

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have received yesterday at 6 p. m. the following important telegram from the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States:

"Inform General Carranza that the representative of Great Britain here has been reporting the activities of German submarines in the Mexican Gulf, and says that the Allies shall see themselves compelled to take strong measures if they should ever know that their enemies had received any help from Mexican territory. Make General Carranza understand the great importance of adopting at once the most efficacious measures to prevent Mexican territory from being used as basis of operations by belligerent warships and the necessity of establishing immediately, if it has not been done yet, a strict censorship of all wireless messages, specially for those addressed from Mexico to ships on high seas or relating to such ships. General Carranza must have it understood that the most insignificant violation of the Mexican neutrality in this case may not lead but to the most transcendental and disastrous results.

(Signed) LANSING."

I have the honor to request of Your Excellency to please make this message known to General Carranza.

I avail this opportunity to renew Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration,

(Signed) CHARLES B. PARKER.

To His Excellency General C. Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 38).

Mexico, November 4, 1916.

Mr. Representative:

I have the honor to refer to Your Honor's kind Note No. 168, dated the 26th of last month, wherein you are pleased do insert a

telegram received from the State Department of the United States, and by instructions from the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, I request of Your Honor to please transmit to His Excellency the Secretary of State of the United States the following note:

"I have the honor to say to Your Excellency that Mr. Charles B. Parker transmitted to the Department under my charge a telegram he received from Your Excellency wherein it is expressed that the Representative of Great Britain at Washington has received news of the activities of German submarines in the Gulf of Mexico, saying that the Allies will see them compelled to adopt strong measures if they ever knew that their enemies have received help from Mexican territory, and declaring at the same time the necessity of taking at once the most efficacious measures to prevent the Mexican territory from being used as basis by belligerent warships for their operations, with the understanding that the slightest breach of the Mexican neutrality in this case could not lead but to most transcendental results.

"In due answer I have the honor to express to Your Excellency that it has seemed very strange to the Mexican Government that His Excellency the British Ambassador accredited at Washington should have addressed himself to the United States Government regarding a matter exclusively concerning Mexico, Great Britain having a Diplomatic representative accredited before our Government, through whom the British Representative should have addressed himself to us; however, as a courtesy for Your Excellency's Government, the Mexican Government answers this time such representation as was made through you by the Government of Great Britain.

"The Government of Mexico considers that it would not be just if the Allies held it responsible for the activities of submarines in the Mexican Gulf, since these vessels have touched U. S. ports and sunk ships in territorial waters of the American Union without such occurrences having originated conflicts and difficulties between the two countries and without any responsibilities being laid on that account on Your Excellency's Government. However, this Government, wishing to maintain the cordial relations which fortunately have always existed between Mexico and Great Britain, begs to suggest the convenience to have the British fleet prevent the sally of German submarines from their respective naval bases, the Mexican Republic being thereby free from disagreeable incidents originated by the actual European conflict.

"If the measures adopted to that effect by the Government of Great Britain should prove inefficacious, the Mexican Government shall then act as circumstances may demand if German submarines ever come to our territorial waters.

"It is a pleasure for me on this account to renew Your Excel-

lency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

Thanking you for the transmission of the preinserted note to His Excellency, the State Secretary of the United States, I beg to renew you the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) AGUILAR,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Honorable Charles B. Parker, in charge of the American Interests, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 39).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, November 10, 1916.

Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the press of Mexico City, dated the 6th inst., inserts a note of Mr. Charles Parker, representing the U. S. interests in Mexico, addressed to Your Excellency, regarding the possible activities of German submarines in the Mexican Gulf and the attitude of the Allied Powers in this case. Mr. Parker's note, as it was published, inserts a message from the State Secretary of the United States of America to the Mexican Government on this subject, as well as the answer given by the Government of Mexico. So much publicity was given the case in question, that in my opinion it is not necessary any more to enter into new details, for I deem to have said enough for Your Excellency to understand exactly which case I refer to.

As I did not know until I read the notes in reference that the U. S. Government had addressed Your Excellency any representation regarding the presence of German submarines in the Mexican Gulf, and since from the news published by the press it seems that the representations were made by the American Government in behalf of His British Majesty's Government, I considered it my duty to wire immediately the First Secretary of State of His Majesty upon the subject.

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have just received a telegram from Viscount Grey de Fallodon, main Foreign Secretary of His Majesty, wherein instructions are given me to assure that His Majesty's Government never asked the Government

of the United States of America to take any steps in its behalf regarding the possibility of enemy submarines which might appear in Mexican waters. Furthermore, from advices I have received it seems that the United States Government has made public a declaration where it is denied that His Majesty's Ambassador to Washington had ever made any request to that effect.

In view of the importance attached by the local press to the notes exchanged between the American and Mexican governments, I have instructions from my Government to express the confidence it entertains that the Mexican Government, after taking note of the assurances I am able to give your Excellency on the subject in question, shall recognize that it is full justice to give the Mexican press all the necessary information in this regard, so that there are made the rectifications I transmit to Your Excellency in behalf of His British Majesty's Government.

I do not believe it to be necessary to add—except because the press seems to be misinformed in this regard—that I have been left in charge of His British Majesty's Legation in Mexico during temporary absence of Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affairs.

I avail this opportunity to renew Your Excellency the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

(Signed) THURSTAN.

(Doc. No. 40).

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to my Note 168 of the 28th ult., as well as to the answer given the same by Your Excellency, dated the 4th inst., both relating to the possible activities of German submarines in territorial waters of the Republic of Mexico.

When I had the honor to address Your Excellency my above-mentioned note, wherein I just inserted the telegram I had received from the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States, I explained that said telegram had a confidential character. I did not considered necessary, therefore, to ask Your Excellency to consider the note as confidential, as is customary when informations of this kind are transmitted by one Government to another.

To-day I have just received a telegram from my Government where I am ordered to make known to Your Excellency's Government that the State Department deplores that the telegram con-

tained in my note of October 28th should have caused any misunderstanding; that the British Government has not made any formal representations to the United States Government in regard to activities of submarines in Mexican waters, and that the information contained in the said telegram of the State Department was of confidential nature, with the understanding that the "De Facto" Government would appreciate the advice given therein and the friendly spirit in which it was transmitted. The telegram whose contents I give in the preceding lines is also confidential and I request of Your Excellency to please consider it that way. It is a source of surprise, I am told in the telegram alluded to, that a confidential information like those often exchanged between governments, should not have been received that way by the "De Facto" Government.

I avail this opportunity to renew Your Excellency the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) CHARLES B. PARKER,

Representing the American Interets.

To His Excellency General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Queretaro.

(Doc. No. 41).

Queretaro, November 27, 1916.

Mr. Representative:

I have the honor to refer to the kind note of Your Honor No. 207 and dated the 3d inst., through which you are pleased to communicate that your Note No. 168, dated the 28th ult., relating to the possible activities of German submarines in territorial waters of the Mexican Republic, had a confidential character; that the State Department of the United States deplores that the telegram you were pleased to transmit in your said note should have caused any misunderstanding, and that the British Government made no formal representations before the United States Government in regard to the activities of submarines in Mexican waters.

In due answer to the above I have the honor to tell Your Honor that the Constitutionalist Government considered it its duty to acquaint the Mexican people with the dangers which threatened them according to the official communication of the American Government, for the great importance and seriousness of the incident

being such, it would have been altogether inconvenient and contrary to democratic principles to conceal the truth of these facts and not to allow the people to express their opinion and their will, so that the Government could know how to act in a necessary case.

I take pleasure in renewing to Your Excellency the assurances of my kind consideration.

(Signed) AGUILAR,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Honorable Charles B. Parker, Representing the American Interests, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 42).

**NOTE SENT BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO THE
NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ON ACCOUNT OF THE
EUROPEAN WAR.**

Washington, February 20, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Foreign Secretary:

URGENT.

I have the honor to insert herein a note I have just received from His Excellency Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, as follows:

"February 17th, 1917.—Ramon P. de Negri, Washington—Sir: I have received your note of the 12th inst., where you are pleased to insert for my knowledge a note General Venustiano Carranza has addressed to neutral nations offering the co-operation of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico toward putting an end to the European war. In reply I beg to state that General Carranza's note shall receive the kind consideration of the United States Government, and allow me to add that in accordance with the wishes expressed in your note of the 13th of February, copies of General Carranza's note were to-day sent through wire to the American diplomatic representatives in Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark

and Switzerland, to be handed over to the foreign offices of such countries, with the understanding that the attitude of the United States Government must not be prejudged while lending its good offices to those Governments to please the "De Facto" Government in this matter. I am, Sir, Yours very truly, (Signed) Robert Lansing."

Respectfully, DE NEGRI.

**GERMAN SHIPS AT SANTA ROSALIA, LOWER CALIFORNIA.
—THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE SAYS THE MEXICAN
AUTHORITIES HAVE ALLOWED THEM TO GET SUPPLIES
WITHOUT EFFECTING THE REQUIRED INSPECTION.**

(Doc. No. 43).

BRITISH LEGATION.

Mexico, March 19, 1917.

Mr. Secretary:

As your Excellency undoubtedly knows, there is a considerable number of German merchant ships actually anchored in the Bay of Santa Rosalia, Lower California. If the reports I have prove true, there exist about eleven of such ships at the port I refer to, although the exact number of them imports little to the matter which induces me to call Your Excellency's attention. These vessels, no doubt, have had the necessity, due to the complete mastery of the seas exerted by the British Navy, to avail themselves of the sure refuge afforded by the bay of a neutral country—without meaning by this that the "De Facto" Government of Mexico by permitting such ships to seek refuge at Santa Rosalia, should have deviated in the least from the rules imposed by neutrality.

However, it has come to the knowledge of His Majesty's Government through a channel considered as trustworthy, that the Mexican local authorities have allowed the vessels referred to the obtainment of supplies without effecting on them the customary and necessary inspection so precise under such circumstances.

Your Excellency will understand the difficulties I meet on the way to obtain corroboration of these reports, and therefore I am transmitting them to Your Excellency with proper exceptions. His Majesty's Government considers though that the reports it has had

are so accurate that leave no choice but to give instructions to call Your Excellency's attention to Art. 8 of La Hague Treaties, Annex 13, 1907, signed by Mexico. I have instructions furthermore to inform Your Excellency that H. M.'s Government will see itself compelled to hold the Mexican Government responsible for any damage that the said ships may cause to the British interests if ever such damages are caused directly by any violation of the article of La Hague Treaties in regard to which I have dared to call Your Excellency's attention.

I request of Your Excellency to please order acknowledgment of this note to be extended, and avail this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) **THURSTAN.**

To His Excellency, General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 44).

TELEGRAM.

Custom Collector, Santa Rosalia, Lower California:

Please order the German ships interned in that port to be watched closely to prevent breaches of Mexican neutrality.

CANDIDO AGUILAR.

A PACIFIST SUGGESTION MADE TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES AND ANSWERS GIVEN TO SAME.

(Doc. No. 45).

By instructions of Mr. Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the

Mexican Republic, I have the honor to address Your Excellency the following note which the said high official has deemed convenient to address to neutral countries:

"It is over two years now since there broke out in the Old Continent an armed conflict of the most gigantic proportions ever recorded by History, spreading death, desolation and horror among the belligerent nations. This tragical struggle has wounded very deeply the humanitarian feelings of all the peoples which do not take part in it, and it would not be just nor humane that these would remain indifferent in front of so great a disaster. A deeply rooted sentiment of human solidarity compels the Mexican Government, therefore, to offer its modest co-operation to put an end to such struggle.

"On the other hand, the European conflagration is of such proportions that the situation of the countries which have remained neutral grows each day even more difficult, being at the verge of being involved in the war, and various nations which at first had not taken part in the conflict have been since irresistibly dragged into it. If the countries still neutral at present really wish to remain out of the conflagration, they must combine their efforts to see that the European war have an end as soon as possible, or, at least, that it may be confined in such manner as to make remote the possibility of new complications that might postpone the end.

"The present European conflict is in the whole world as a vast fire or like a most pernicious plague, which should have been isolated and confined long ago to shorten its duration and prevent it from spreading all over. Far from it, though, the trade of all the neutral countries of the world, and especially that of America, shall be held greatly responsible by History, because all the neutral nations have, more or less, lent their proportion in money, provisions, ammunition or fuel to increase such conflagration. Reasons of a high human morality and of national self-preservation impose on the neutrals the obligation to abandon this line of conduct and decline to continue giving such share as has made possible the continuation of the war for over two years.

"To this purpose the Mexican Government, within the strictest respect to the sovereignty of the countries at war, moved by the loftiest human sentiments and led also by the national instinct of self-preservation and defense, begs to propose to Your Excellency's Government, as it does with all the other neutral Governments, that acting in common accord and upon a base of the absolute equality toward both groups of contending nations, an invitation be extended them to put a stop to this woful war, either by their own action or availing the good offices or the friendly mediation of all the countries which may jointly make the invitation. If within a reasonable length of time peace is not re-established by this action, the neutral countries shall then adopt the necessary measures to confine

the conflagration to its strictest limits, refusing to the belligerents all kinds of elements and cutting off all commercial relations with the powers at war while such conflagration is not extinguished.

"The Mexican Government does not ignore that its proposition is somewhat removed from the principles of International Law that have ruled to this day the relations between neutrals and belligerents; but it must be recognized that the present European war is a conflict without precedent in History, demanding supreme efforts and new remedies which may not be found within the narrow and somewhat selfish rules of International Law as has been known heretefore. In front of a war in which political, social, military and economic factors that never could be foreseen have played their part, it is not out of the way to propose that the remedies applicable to the conflict be also new, extraordinary and adequate to the circumstances.

"The Government of Mexico understands that no neutral nation, no matter how powerful it may be, could by itself take a step of that nature, and that the success of such measure may only be attained by the co-operation of the neutral governments having a higher international influence upon the belligerent nations. It falls specially to the United States, Argentine, Brazil and Chile in America, and to Spain, Sweden and Norway in Europe, as the most influential and the freer, to adopt a determine attitude in regard to the countries at war, to take up this suggesion which, despite being originated by a nation which is supposed to be weakened at present and therefore unable to make an effectual international effort, is still worthy of serious study and wise consideration.

"The Government of Mexico entertains the hope that if this idea be accepted and carried into practice it may serve as precedent and basis for a new orientation of International Law which shall permit the neutrals to help, preventing and remedying future international conflicts, within the strictest respect for the belligerents' sovereignty. Any countries which should hereafter find themselves upon the verge of war would seriously meditate before entering a war they would have to wage with just their own resources, and therefore they certainly would resort to all conceivable means to avoid it, or would make it as short as possible if they could not avoid it."

I avail this opportunity to express Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

C. AGUILAR.

February 11, 1917.

(Doc. No. 46).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, February 12, 1917.

De Negri, Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.:

Please address the State Department, expressing that in view of the difficulties met by the Mexican Government to get in touch with the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland, it is requested that the note addressed yesterday to the Neutral Governments be sent through the kindness of that Department, with the understanding that the Mexican Government shall pay the transmission, and also that the favor thus made by the United States Administration shall not pre-establish its attitude.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 47).

TELEGRAM.

Tegucigalpa, Hon., February 14, 1917.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's cable message containing the important note addressed to the neutral countries by His Excellency the President of that Republic. The Honduran Government praises the noble suggestion made by His Excellency Señor Carranza for the sake of peace, and in order to define its attitude in this matter, the same Honduran Government expects to know first the attitude to be assumed by the United States, Argentine, Brazil and Chile, which, as expressed in the message I answer, exert greater international influence upon the belligerent nations. Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

MARIANO VAZQUEZ,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 48).

Panama, February 15, 1917.

The Government of Panama has been informed of the humanitarian feelings which inspired the noble suggestion made by His Excellency General V. Carranza, which has all our Government's sympathy. However, this Government does not agree with the idea of charging the neutral countries with having used their legitimate rights nor wishes to contribute in any manner to barring their land and overseas trade, for such task is rather incumbent on the belligerent powers using their right of self-defense. Far from confining the evil by such measure, it would spread it by closing up sources of wealth and prosperity in innocent countries which did nothing to provoke the present war. This Government is well disposed to follow any suggestion for peace as may respect the sovereignty of the belligerents and the rights of the neutrals, at least while there is no agreement or exchange of international ideas by which the rights of peace and war now acknowledged by the whole community of the nations may be rectified and modernized. I avail this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurances of my kindest consideration.

GARAY,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

(Doc. No. 49).

TELEGRAM.

Washington, D. C., February 17, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Queretaro:

State Department has just communicated to me verbally that with all pleasure have they transmitted notes to Scandinavian

countries; that official receipt shall be acknowledged me for our note to neutral countries and that at the same time the bill shall be presented to me for transmission of the same note.

Greetings,

DE NEGRI.

(Doc. No. 50).

Havana, February 17, 1917.

Honorable Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Honor's kind Note No. 279, dated the 13th inst., where you are pleased to insert a message of your Government containing the note that His Excellency the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, has deemed convenient to address the governments of neutral countries, suggesting that, acting in common accord and upon the basis of the most absolute equality toward both and each group of contending powers, an invitation be extended them to put an end to the European conflict, either by their own endeavors or else using the good offices or the friendly mediation of all the countries which may jointly make the invitation.

I renew to Your Honor the assurance of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

G. PATTERSON.

Honorable Antonio Hernandez Ferrer, Chargé d'Affairs of Mexico, Havana.

(Doc. No. 51).

TELEGRAM.

San Salvador, C. A., February 19, 1917.

Foreign Office, Mexico:

Salvadorean Government praises most enthusiastically the humanitarian feelings which inspired the First Chief's note, and agrees that the neutrals have the very momentous duty of preventing the European conflagration from spreading all over, by a combined

action to be taken by all the nations mentioned in the Mexican note, if they accept invitation to co-operate to the re-establishment of world peace. Am mailing complete answer.

ALOMIA.

(Doc. No. 52).

San Salvador, February 19th, 1917.

Mr. Minister:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's kind note of the 12th inst., wherein you were pleased to insert a cable message from the Mexican Government, received by Your Excellency on the previous day, communicating instructions to transmit to the Salvadorean Government a note that His Excellency Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, has deemed convenient to address all the neutral countries for the purpose of acting in common accord and upon the basis of the most absolute equality toward both and each of the contending groups of belligerent nations, and invite these powers to put an end to the war, either by their own endeavors or using the good offices or the friendly mediation of all the countries which may jointly sign the invitation, suggesting at the same time that if within a reasonable length of time peace cannot be re-established by such means, the neutral nations adopt then the necessary measures towards confining the conflagration to the strictest limits by refusing to the belligerents all kinds of elements and cutting off all commercial trade with them until the purpose in view may have been attained. The suggestion of Your Excellency's able Government is based on the following motives, which the note I refer to explains very clearly. That the armed conflict, the greatest one recorded by History, has wounded very deeply the feelings of all the peoples which do not take part in it, and which it would not be just nor humane if they remained indifferent in front of so great a disaster; that a deeply rooted desire for solidarity compels therefore the Mexican Government to offer its co-operation toward making the conflict cease; that the situation of the countries that have remained neutral grows each day more difficult on account of the magnitude of the European conflagration, which places them in the serious danger of finally becoming involved in it; that such conflagration is for the whole world as a great fire or a calamitous plague which should be kept within certain confines by preventing its further propagation, and therefore the neutrals must get together and try to extinguish such evil, or at

least, to see to the removal of all possibilities of new complications, that the end of it may gradually get nearer; and that reasons of lofty human morality and national self-preservation impose on the neutrals the obligation of abandoning the conduct observed more or less by them—for which they assume great responsibility in History—and which consists in lending their help in money, ammunition and other means to keep up the struggle, fomenting and prolonging thereby the great conflagration. The note adds that the Mexican Government does not ignore that the suggestions it makes are somewhat removed from the principles of International Law that have ruled up to the present day the relations between neutrals and belligerents; but it must be recognized that the European war is a conflict without precedent, demanding supreme efforts and new remedies never to be found within the narrow and egotistical rules of the old International Law; and, therefore, Mexico believes that in front of so great a catastrophe as was never seen, in front of a war in which have taken part political, social, military and economical factors that could never be foreseen, said Government is not deviating from the right path when it suggests that remedies also new should be applied, the most extraordinary and adequate to the circumstances. My Government, Mr. Minister, recognizes fully and praises with enthusiasm the feelings of lofty and noble humanity inspiring the note His Excellency the President of the United States of Mexico sent to the neutral nations, and agrees that the countries which have been able heretofore to keep away from the conflict, some of them making strenuous efforts to that effect, for which they deserve hearty praise—have really the commanding duty, imposed on them by high human morality, of doing all they can to prevent the great conflagration from increasing its intensity and spreading, and try to see the end of it as soon as possible. My Government considers, nevertheless, as your note considers it also, that it falls specially—for being more influential and free to take a determination—to the United States, Argentine, Brazil and Chile in America, and Spain, Sweden and Norway in Europe, to adopt the important suggestion of Your Excellency's illustrious Government. Therefore we beg to say that as soon as such great powers or a majority of them, accept the suggestion referred to, my Government shall have no objection to joining them and co-operate with all its powers to the re-establishment of the world peace. Thus am I highly pleased to answer Your Excellency's note and gladly avail this opportunity to renew Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) A. ARRIETA ROSI.

To His Excellency Salvador Martinez Alomia, Head of the Special Diplomatic Mission in Central America.—Present.

(Doc. No. 53).

Washington, February 20, 1917.

Mr. Ramon P. De Negri, in charge of Mexican Embassy:

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 12th inst., wherein you insert for my knowledge a note that General Venustiano Carranza has addressed the neutral nations, offering the co-operation of the "De Facto" Government of Mexico towards putting an end to the European war. In response to it I beg to say that General Carranza's note shall receive the careful consideration of the United States Government, being able to add that, in conformity with the petition contained in your letter of the 13th, copies of General Carranza's note have been sent by cable to the American diplomatic representatives in Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland, to be delivered to the Foreign Offices of such countries, with the understanding that the attitude of the United States Government shall not be prejudged by its action of facilitating its good offices to the "De Facto" Government in this matter.

I am, Sir, Yours very truly,

(Signed) **ROBERT LANSING.**

(Doc. No. 54).

Lima, February 22d, 1917.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

It has been an honor for me to receive Your Excellency's kind message of the 11th inst., and in reply to it I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that my Government recognizes the lofty inspirations of your Government in its wishes to put an end to the vast conflagration which now afflicts the world, and it abounds in the same feelings, hoping that the humane purposes in view may be attained. I express to Your Excellency on this account the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

RIVA AGUERO,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 55).

TELEGRAM.

Managua, February 23d, 1917.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I refer to Your Excellency's message dated the 12th inst., containing suggestions intended to bring about peace in Europe. I have informed my Government, and it is moved by earnest wishes for universal peace. I shall be glad to communicate my Government's resolution.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

(Doc. No. 56).

TELEGRAM.

Mexico, February 23, 1917.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, La Paz, Bolivia:

In response to Your Excellency's message dated the 17th, in which Your Excellency is pleased to invite the Mexican Government to sign a declaration to the effect that it is against all rights the attack of submarines against neutral merchant ships, I regret to say that the Mexican Government declines with all attention to subscribe such declaration, because it considers that no practical and satisfactory result would be won by it in behalf of peace.

I avail this opportunity to express to Your Excellency that the Government of Mexico is waiting for your kind reply to its note of the 11th inst., and gladly assure you of my most distinguished consideration.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 57).

Buenos Aires, February 23, 1917.

Your Note 301, dated February 13th, has been received and notice has been taken of the message from the official in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, expressing his wishes for a prompt peace in Europe.

While acknowledging receipt of said note, I greet you with all consideration.

H. PUEYRREDON.

Mr. Enrique R. Freymann, Chargé d'Affairs of Mexico, Present.

(Doc. No. 58).

TELEGRAM.

Buenos Aires, February 25, 1917.

General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

During a long interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs he asked me to inform my Government in a confidential manner that in view of the course taken by the European conflict and the terrible consequences suffered by the neutrals, this Government, moved by the best wishes, has decided to propose to the Latin-American countries the organization of a Congress to ask the belligerent nations in a serious and decisive manner, proper of free countries, conscious of their worth and of their rights, that peace be re-established. The Argentine Government suggests the idea that such Congress meet in Buenos Aires, because this is the Latin-American capital having a more complete diplomatic corps, without this point meaning a condition, for it may as well meet anywhere else. The delegates forming such Congress may be, besides the accredited diplomats, as many as the interested governments may deem convenient, the suggestion being that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries accepting the proposition should convene. He told me that the Argentine Government informs the Mexican Government that the only ideal it pursues is peace, and only peace, without

considering the advantages of victory on one or the other side, nor the way to bring about such peace, and therefore no mediation is intended. The Minister explained that he entertained no hope regarding a practical result being obtained through such Congress, but that any way it could be obtained to make the war more humane and set a precedent which shall make the belligerent nations think of an element they never gave importance to, which would also be an opportunity to agree as to the best manner to make effective the Congress propositions in case of the countries at war rejecting the humanitarian finality of its decisions. The Minister requested me to indicate to my Government the interests of Argentine to have such Congress meet as soon as possible, and waits only to know the opinion of the governments to make the official proposals.

Respectfully,

FREYMANN.

(Doc. No. 59).

TELEGRAM.

La Paz, Bolivia, February 28, 1917.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

I have the honor to refer to the interesting message of Your Excellency and it is highly satisfactory for me to say that this Government recognizes the importance of the suggestion contained therein, and it is to be hoped that the rights of the neutral Latin-American Nations shall be defined in front of the last incidents arisen on account of the European armed conflict.

P. SANCHEZ.

(Doc. No. 60).

Madrid, April 28, 1917.

Department of State.—No. 16.

My dear Sir:

While acknowledging receipt of your kind Note No. 642, dated the 20th inst., it is my duty to inform you that H. M.'s Government has given all the due attention to the note you transmitted to my worthy predecessor Mr. Gimeno, the 17th of February, that the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, deemed convenient to send to the

neutral countries, insinuating the convenience of working in common accord and upon the basis of the most absolute equality toward each and all the groups of belligerent nations, these were invited to put an end to the war, using to that effect the best means of persuasion as well as of the good offices and friendly mediation simultaneously of all the countries, and if the use of such means as suggested were seen within a reasonable length of time to be useless for the achievement of the purpose in view, then the neutrals would take the necessary steps to keep the conflagration within its strictest limits, refusing to give any assistance to the belligerents and suspending all trade relations with the nations at war while this is on.

His Majesty's Government can no less but see with great sympathy the lofty and noble humanitarian feelings which moved the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, to make a suggestion tending to bring about a prompt settlement of the international conflict which has caused so many and such serious damages in all orders of things to all the countries of earth.

On more than one occasion His Majesty's Government has made public its desire to contribute by all means within its reach to the termination of hostilities, provided that in its judgment the necessary guarantees should concur to believe that its action could prove efficacious.

It perseveres in such attitude, and should the moment arrive, the Government would not elude to give its suggestions or to take any part in the form and manner that circumstances might then advise as more adequate; in the meantime, however, this Government wishes to continue in the same attitude adopted and observed since the beginning of the war.

Entreating you to please transmit the above to your Government, I avail this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(Signed) JUAN ALVARADO.

Honorable Amado Nervo, Chargé d'Affairs of Mexico.

(Doc. No. 61).

TELEGRAM.

Bogota, March 1st, 1917.

To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico:

Your Excellency's important message of the 11th inst. having

been studied, which refers to the action that neutral countries might take in behalf of the world peace through the endeavors suggested by the Mexican Government, it has been placed in relation to other documents received from the Ecuadorean and Bolivian Governments also concerning the attitude that might be followed by the neutral nations of American in regard to some practices resorted to in the present international war. Complying with instructions I have from the President of the Republic. I have the honor to answer the said note of Your Excellency, recognizing the lofty purposes held in view by Your Excellency's Government in behalf of peace, and expressing that in the opinion of my Government the actions suggested by Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador should be analyzed together in order to be able to qualify them more easily and to consult the efficacy of those resulting acceptably. To that purpose perhaps it would be convenient to empower the Mexican, Bolivian and Ecuadorean legations accredited at Washington to confer among themselves privately on these subjects, and to extend afterward their conferences to the other neutral nations accredited at Washington, and, finally, to promote, if things go that far, in accordance with their governments, an international congress which might meet in Uruguay, the program of it to include the points insinuated by the Mexican, Bolivian and Ecuadorean Governments, and perhaps also other points deemed advisable for the purpose in view. The Colombian Legation in Washington would receive, when the occasion arrived, instructions to take part in the official conferences that might be held and to inform this Government on result thereof, empowering this Government to take part in the official acts that would ensue tending to qualify formally the means suggested by Your Excellency and the governments of Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as those suggested by other States in favor of peace, justice and the welfare of nations.

I renew Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

MARCO FIDEL SUAREZ,

Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

(Doc. No. 62).

Mr. Minister:

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's kind note dated the 13th of February ult., wherein you were pleased to

quote the message from His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, dated the 12th, intended to be transmitted to the Government of this Republic. In said note His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico is pleased to make, by instructions of His Excellency Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Mexican Republic, an exposition of the damages caused by the actual world war, and suggests that all the neutral countries get together to make a representation to the belligerent nations to put an end to the struggle, either by themselves or using the good offices and the friendly mediation of such countries as make jointly the invitation; and that if within a reasonable length of time peace is not re-established, the neutral countries adopt the necessary measures to confine the conflagration to its strictest limits by denying the belligerents all kinds of elements and cutting off all trade with the nations at war while such conflagration is not extinguished. To that effect, adds His Excellency, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the United States, Argentine, Brazil and Chile in America, and Spain, Sweden and Norway in Europe, on account of their greater international influence and their wider freedom of action, should take up this suggestion, which, despite of its being originated in a country supposed to be weakened at present and unable therefore to make any international effort, fails not to deserve study and consideration. The Government of Guatemala has given its response to the Mexican Government the attention and study it deserves, and we see with pleasure all endeavors made toward shortening the war and diminishing the destruction of the European conflict. The attitude of this country regarding the armed struggle of the Old World has been, nevertheless, completely impartial and waiting, and having been declined by some of the belligerent nations the suggestion of peace made not long ago by the head of a great American nation, the Guatemala Government, respecting the opinion and recognizing the value of the purposes held in view by the Mexican Government, considers that this is not the most opportune time to make to those countries new invitations to stop the struggle. As to refusing to the belligerents all kinds of elements that might serve them to continue the war, and to suspend all commercial relations with the countries engaged in the conflict, the Government of Guatemala does not consider legitimate to prevent their citizens from continuing their commercial activities, in the form prescribed by the laws, with the inhabitants of the countries involved in such war, and from the beginning has left them absolutely free to carry on said activities with either of the contending nations. The means suggested by the Mexican Government introduce indeed such innovations in the practices of international law that the Government of Guatemala must recognize at least that it would not be practica!

for it to make the intervention proposed, while the measures suggested would place us out of the neutrality which up to now we have always kept. While requesting of Your Excellency to please make this reply reach Your Excellency's Government, it is very pleasing for me to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) **LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE.**

To His Excellency General Dr. Jose Bermudez de Castro, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Mexico.—City.

(Doc. No. 63).

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

Department of Foreign Affairs.

Quito, March 14th, 1917.

Excellency:

I have had the honor to receive the confirmation in writing to Your Excellency's telegram of Feb. 11th.

For my part I take pleasure in confirming also the telegram I addressed to Your Excellency on the 16th:

"The suggestion made by several American countries to obtain the union of them all in regard to their defense of the rights of continental neutrality and to soften the rigorous effects of war, states what has been expressed on several occasions before, that is, that the individual action of one or several to any effect shall be fruitless, as any joint action of all must be proficient. In this it seems we all agree; the only thing to be determined is the manner in which such combined action must be taken. To this purpose the Government of Uruguay deems convenient the immediate convention of an American Congress, which might hold sessions, for instance, in Uruguay, in order to agree on measures leading to continental understanding, specially for the guaranty of the rights of neutrality and the obtainment of a possible softening of the rigorous effects of the struggle, which inspire the message I answer. I submit to Your Excellency this proposition I judge to be the most convenient for the achievement of practical results.

I assure you of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

On this account I renew to Your Excellency the testimony of my high consideration.

TOBAR Y BORGONA.

(Doc. No. 64).

Washington, D. C., March 16, 1917.

Ramon P. De Negri, Present:

Sir:

I dare request of you to please transmit to the President-elect of the Mexican Republic the following answer to the note of February 11th of this year addressed by him to you with instructions to make it known to the United States Government. In said note the President-elect proposes to all the neutral governments that "the groups of non-contending nations (in the present European conflict) acting in common accord and upon the basis of the most absolute equality toward one and the other groups of warring nations, an invitation be extended them to put an end to this war, either by themselves or by using the good offices or the friendly mediation of all the countries which make jointly the invitation. If within a reasonable length of time peace is not re-established thereby, the neutral nations shall then adopt the necessary measures to reduce the conflagration to its strictest limits by refusing the belligerent powers any kind of elements and cutting of all trade relations with the nations at war while the said conflagration is not totally extinguished."

The United States Government has given careful and close consideration to the propositions made by the "De Facto" Government, not only because they emanate from a neighboring Republic whose welfare and friendship inspire to the United States particular and permanent interests, but also because these propositions have for their purpose the wishes of the President to know, by means of his discussion of a few months ago, the claims of the belligerent nations and their tendencies in the war. It is not to be doubted that General Carranza knows the poor results obtained by the President's efforts. At that time the conflict, instead of resolving itself into the discussion of peace treaties, culminated in the renewal of a land and sea campaign with more intense cruelty and vigor, to such extreme that a group of belligerents has continued the war

on the high seas, carrying in itself the destruction of ships and lives of American citizens, despite the promises emphatically made to the United States Government, and that it was deemed necessary during the last few weeks to sever diplomatic relations with one of the governments of the allied Central Powers. Coming to aggravate the situation, the United States Government has discovered a plot worked by the dominating government of the Central Powers devised to drag to a war with the United States not only the people and the Government of Mexico, but also the Government and the people of Japan. At the time of the conception of such conspiracy, the United States Government was at peace with the people and the Government of the German Empire, and German officials and suspects who enjoyed liberty, privileges and protection freely accorded them in the United States, abused such concessions. Under these circumstances existing at the moment of receiving the note answered hereby, the American Government finds itself, much to its sorrow and against its wishes, in a situation which excludes it from any actual participation in General Carranza's propositions of the neutral governments jointly addressing an invitation to the belligerent countries for the purpose of ending the war, either as a result of the latter's endeavors or else using the good offices or the friendly mediation of the neutrals.

In the actual stage of the European conflict the mastery of the Entente Powers over the seas has prevented the Central Powers from obtaining supplies from the Western World. To such extent has this restriction been extended on the overseas trade that all branches of commerce between the Americas and the Old World are totally suspended or at least seriously affected. This condition is not new. In 1915 the Central Governments showed their unableness to obtain arms and ammunitions from the United States, while these provisions were profusedly sent to their enemies' ports. The discussion of this matter reached its climax in the note of August 12, 1915 (a copy of which is attached herewith), addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Imperial Government upholding the claim of the United States Government that its unableness to send ammunitions of war to the Central Powers was not caused by contrivances of any sort, but absolutely due to the naval superiority of the Entente Powers.

Considering that this situation of the United States is based on sound principles of International Law and according to practices established among nations, the President orders me to make it clear that he is not faculted to consider the amendment of such principles or the practice therefore, as would result from the compliance with General Carranza's suggestion to stop trade relations with the nations at war.

Consequently the President deplores that, despite any wishes he might have to establish a co-operation with General Carranza

intended to find a solution to the world problem already involving or affecting all nations, he finds himself for the above given reasons unable at this time to devote his endeavors to the realization of the lofty intentions of the President-elect in the manner suggested in his propositions.

This does not mean, however, that the President would wish to prevent the development of action tending to the re-establishment of peaceful relations among the belligerents; and therefore he would deplore if the Mexican Government believed that his unableness to act in the present state of things in any way is opposed to the achievement of the high ideals of General Carranza to co-operate with the neutral governments in lending their good offices and their friendly mediation towards ending the terrible conflagration devastating the European countries.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) **ROBERT LANSING.**

(Doc. No. 65).

**A DECLARATION MADE TO THE PRESS BY GENERAL
CANDIDO AGUILAR, SECRETARY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.**

In view of the answer given by the United States Government to the note addressed by the First Chief to the governments of the neutral nations, the Mexican Government has decided to continue co-operating with its efforts to prevent that any of the countries of this Continent take any part in the European conflict, and shall continue its endeavors among the neutral nations toward the obtaining of peace in Europe.

Mexico, March 18, 1917.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 66).

Mexico, April 2, 1917.

To His Excellency the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Quito:

In reply to Your Excellency's kind message dated February 16th, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Mex-

ican Government accepts the proposal of that Government to meet at an American Congress to be held in Uruguay for the purpose of agreeing as to what means shall be adopted to establish peace in Europe. On this account I am pleased to renew Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

AGUILAR.

(Doc. No. 67).

Buenos Aires, April 6, 1917.

Assistant Secretary Mr. Garza Perez, Foreign Office, Mexico:

I answer telegram of the 3d received to-day, Thursday. On account of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Assistant being away during Holy Week, I have communicated acceptance of idea of Congress to be held at Uruguay to official in charge of Protocol Department, who tells me Argentine Government appreciates very much the honor made by Mexico on accepting the suggestion, lamenting not to be able to answer your question because no answer has been received thus far by the Argentine Foreign Office from some of the Central American Republics which have no diplomatic representatives in this country.

Respectfully,

FREYMANN.

IX

INFORMES DEL EJECUTIVO AL CONGRESO DE LA UNION. ^[1] EXECUTIVE REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS. ^[1]

This book would not be complete without the sections of the President's messages regarding our foreign relations, as addressed to the Congress on the 15th of April, 1917, September 1st of the same year and September 1st, 1918; for even though the two last messages do not correspond to the revolutionary period but to the constitutional one already re-established at that time, such reports contain important data that complete the history of the task performed by the Constitutionalist revolution in regard to international affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.)

(Report of April 15th, 1917).

As soon as the Huerta regime of usurpation was disavowed by the Government and the Legislature of Coahuila and the campaign against it was organized in accordance with the Plan of Guadalupe, the first thing in the mind of the First Chieftainship, in regard to foreign relations, was to get in touch with the United States Government, the only one with which such relations could be established, since the governments of the main European nations had hastily recognized the Huerta administration as if it were legitimate and without giving any importance to the series of crimes upon which it was based. Notwithstanding the fact that the President of the United States had on several occasions expressed the idea that the Huerta Government was perfectly illegal and therefore could not be recognized, the truth is that neither did it show readiness to recognize the Coahuilan Government either, nay, not even to remove all obstacles in its way that it might easily get the war material indispensable for the struggle.

On this account the first efforts on my part were directed to obtain from the United States Government the lifting of the embargo placed on all classes of implements of war, making it plain that with such prohibition the only achievement possible was to help Huerta very efficaciously, because the Constitutionalist Government, not having been able to make efficient preparations, was not in position to make ammunition and arms so badly needed by its army. Furthermore, it did not possess a port through which it could pass such material into the country, while Huerta could obtain all he wanted without any difficulty from all the arms and ammunition plants of Europe, bringing them into Mexico without any obstacle, since he had control over all the seaports of importance.

The United States Government, which by its embargo was really favoring the usurpers, finally decided upon lifting the embargo one full year after the struggle against Huerta had begun, thus making it easy for us to cope with the main necessities of the war.

Such attitude of the United States Government, even if it did not mean anything else than a logical consequence of the opinion formed in regard to the criminal behavior of Huerta, was interpreted by that leader and his followers as help from the American Government to the Revolution, and from that moment a campaign was started to create difficulties between the United States and the First Chieftainship, a task still performed in these days by the friends of the old regime and the enemies of the Constitutionalist Government.

The first trouble arose on account of the death of a British subject, William Benton, which occurred in Juarez City on February 16th, 1914. The English Government having recognized Huerta and having, therefore, no representatives before the First Chieftainship, it called on the United States Government, who had a representative, to demand that a committee formed of foreigners and including a British Consul should be allowed to come into Mexican territory to examine and identify Benton's remains, and also that a claim of the British Government based on this case should be considered.

The First Chieftainship, wishing to have the case made clear so as to act according to justice, ordered immediately that a most scrupulous investigation be made, and appointed for that purpose a respectable committee formed by honorable Mexicans. However, in order to destroy from the beginning the vicious system of the nations which recognized Huerta presenting their claims through the United States, as they intended to establish it, so that the governments of said nations did not act by themselves in cases connected with the lives and property of their citizens, I advised the American Government that I would pay attention, as it has been done on several occasions, with all diligence and efficacy, to all claims and demands made in favor of any country, but, for the dignity of the Republic and the respect due to the very personality of the Supreme Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, I would not admit their intervention in affairs concerning citizens of other countries, if such intervention was not in accordance with diplomatic usages, since furthermore, the Revolution did not object to appointing a representative to attend to their interests.

Despite the failure of their futile attempts in this case, the reactionary elements and the enemies of the Constitutionalism redoubled their efforts in their criminal task of creating difficulties. One of the gravest incidents was that originated in Tampico.

The 9th of April, 1914, a few sailors and an officer, all in uniform, belonging to the American steamship "Dolphin," arrived at

a store near the Iturbide bridge, on board a little boat of that steamer. Their intention was to buy some gasoline, and the chief of the Huerta forces at that point gave orders to have the sailors captured and taken to his presence between the two lines of soldiers of a platoon.

The American Government demanded satisfaction for these deeds, and if the affair had been conducted in a spirit of justice it is certain that a satisfactory solution would have been reached without any great difficulty. But the Huerta Administration allowed things to assume a much greater proportion, and finally the American troops took Veracruz, not without some bloodshed on both parts, because the alumni of the Naval Academy most spontaneously offered some resistance and so did the citizens of that port, the Huerta chief and his troops having left the town. This condemnable act make clear the sinister plans of the Huerta regime.

The usurper, wishing to counteract his increasing loss of prestige, made a political maneuver of this case, endangering the life of the country and considering only his personal ambitions. Under false pretenses he managed to exploit for his own benefit the patriotism of the Mexicans and tried to create discordance among the Constitutionalist Army by trying to get this body to join him under the deceiving excuse of the national defense, when it was meant only to annul the triumphs of the Revolution. The Constitutionalist Army, through their worthy chiefs, refused to heed such perfidious insinuations, although it was always ready to perform its patriotic duties.

As soon as the Constitutional Government received news of the capture of Veracruz by means of a telegraphic message from the American Consul at Torreon, wherein he tried to explain those happenings by instructions of the American Secretary of State, I addressed a note dated the 22d of April, 1914, to the United States Government, assuming without hesitation a well defined attitude. In said note it was made clear that the Mexican Nation, the real Mexican people, had not recognized as their ruler the usurper who tried to drown in blood their free institutions; that the acts of said usurper and of his accomplices could not be considered as legitimate acts of the National Sovereignty nor representing the feelings of the Mexican Nation, which feelings are of confraternity towards the North American people; that this lack of legitimacy of the Huerta Government was plainly corroborated by the fact that it had not been recognized by the United States, Argentine, Chile, Brazil and Cuba governments; that the usurper was a transgressor that should be judged by the Constitutionalist Government, the only one representing the national suzerainty, according to the spirit of Article 128 of the Mexican Political Constitution; that the acts of the usurper should not be sufficient to drag the Mexican people into a disastrous war with the United States, because there was no solidarity between

said usurper and the Mexican Nation, since the former was not the legitimate representative of the latter. It was clearly and emphatically expressed that anyway the invasion of our territory, and the stay of American troops in Veracruz or the violation of the rights on which our existence as a sovereign State was based, would certainly lead us to a war, mismatched but necessary to our dignity, which I wished to avoid by all honorable means, as it was unreasonable that two goodwilling nations should break off their ties of peaceful friendship. With these suggestions, in view of the declarations made by the American Senate to the effect that the United States did not assume an hostile attitude towards the Mexican people nor had the intention of declaring war on us, considering also that the acts of hostility exceeded what equity demanded for the purpose in view, and, on the other hand, since the usurper of Mexico was not the one called to give any reparation, my note ended by inviting the American Government to stop such hostility, to order its troops to leave the places of Veracruz they had captured, and to formulate before the Constitutionalist Government, represented by myself as Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila and Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, the corresponding demand for the happenings of Tampico, with the assurance that such demand would be considered with a lofty spirit of justice and conciliation.

Such was always the attitude assumed toward the occurrences, as you know well, because these things are of the public dominion. Huerta, the usurper, fell down; the Convention became a focus of rebelliousness and there came the infidelity of Villa to complicate the situation, placing obstacles in the victorious way of the Constitutionalist Army in the very moment when it reached the final goal and dominated almost all over the country, the Government under my charge having already captured the Capital City, which it had abandoned as a strategical move.

In the course of these happenings and even in the middle of the most difficult situation, the Constitutionalist Government continuously insisted on the evacuation of Veracruz by the invading forces, and it was happily obtained the 23d of November of the same year (1914), when our national flag was raised again over the heroical town, in the hands of the Constitutionalist troops. Let it be known that such an advantage was achieved without diminishing our decorum or the honor of the Republic and without accepting intervention of any kind in our interior affairs; it was by a spontaneous application of the Chamber of Commerce, the businessmen, the professionals and other citizens of said port, and in view of the fact that all those who had held public commissions during the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces, had submitted themselves to the decisions of the Constitutionalist Government, that two Decrees were issued: one to the effect of exempting the applicants from the payment of new taxes that had already been paid

to the foreign forces, and the other pardoning those included in the second case, that is, those who had held public positions with the invaders.

Such was the end of an incident that might have led to a disastrous war between two countries who eagerly wished for peace on account of feelings and interests.

Shortly after the occupation of Veracruz by the American forces the Honorable Plenipotentiaries from Brazil, Argentine and Chile, authorized by their respective governments, offered me, as Supreme Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, their good offices to mediate in the conflict between Mexico and the United States, and I accepted their propositions in principle, with deep acknowledgment, as stated in my note of 20th April, 1914, signed at Chihuahua.

Said Diplomats had addressed to me a message suggesting that a general armistice be agreed upon while a pacific and friendly solution of the conflict pending between Mexico and the United States was reached; but I flatly refused to accept it, arguing that such a conflict, intentionally brought up by Victoriano Huerta, had to be solved independently from our internal strife for the sake of liberty and right, judging furthermore inconvenient to the Constitutionalist Cause to stop hostilities and military movements which would only benefit Huerta; that the civil war in Mexico between the usurper and the armed citizens should go on with all activity in order to re-establish as soon as possible the Constitutional regime that had been interrupted, and thus obtain peace in the country.

Immediately afterwards I addressed myself again to the same Plenipotentiaries on May 3d, requesting them to please determine the points on which their good offices would be based to mediate in the conflict, and in view of the fact that the A. B. C. conferences at Niagara were started without the Diplomats having attended my request as to establishing the points to be discussed, I advised them through our Confidential Agent at Washington, on the 25th of the same month, that I had not appointed any representative because I was expecting their answer, considering that not a step more should be taken in such conferences if the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army had no delegates, despite the fact that it represented the opinion of a great majority of the inhabitants and the greatest armed force of the Republic.

Not having advised me upon such essential particulars, the A. B. C. conferences were held, attended by the representatives of Argentine, Brazil and Chile, the delegates of the American Government and the representatives of General Victoriano Huerta, without my having appointed delegates nor taken any part in them.

In this state of affairs the Plenipotentiaries did not communicate with me again until the 15th of August, 1915, when they proposed, in a definite manner, that a meeting should be called to be attended by all the political and military leaders who had fought

with the Constitutionalism, to take place at any point to be later on determined, in order to exchange views and decide the fate of the country, creating a provisional government which would adopt the measures leading to a constitutional reconstruction by proceeding immediately to issue a general call for elections; all this to be done, of course, with the intervention of the same Plenipotentiaries who had offered their good offices.

To such queer pretensions I answered in a most emphatic form, by means of a note signed on September 10th, 1915, declaring as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Republic, that I would not consent to the solution of our internal troubles through foreign mediation nor at the initiative of any foreign government, since all had the sacred duty to respect the sovereignty of the Nation. That accepting the invitation to attend a conference with the chiefs of the rebellious forces in order to restore peace in Mexico, would injure in its very heart the independence of the Republic and would also set a precedent of foreign intervention to solve her own troubles, and this consideration should suffice in itself not to allow interposition in legitimate defense of the Mexican people's sovereignty, as well as that of the other American nations.

I furthermore made known to them in brief the whole program of the Revolution, alluding to the reforms constituting the basis of the new social organization already under way; stating that I had the enormous responsibility of carrying out the national ambitions and could not endanger the fate of the country nor allow the enemies of the cause I represented to take direct participation in the Government, as such a transaction would establish; that a most painful experience had demonstrated how fatal are the consequences of such transactions; that the people having answered with enthusiasm my call for the movement against the usurper, once this was defeated and Villa was annihilated, and the Revolution would have triumphed over the new obstacles put on its way one upon the other, having an army of one hundred and fifty thousand men, having also done much already for the reconstruction of the country, to restore it to its normal life; with the railroad traffic resumed and all public ways improved, to treat with the defeated faction would be as much as the First Chieftainship renouncing the victory achieved by means of enormous sacrifices, and would mean my resignation of the First Chieftainship of the Constitutionalist Army and as Provisional Chief of the Executive Power of the Nation, disregarding the faith and confidence that the army and the Mexican people had honored me with.

For all these reasons, and adding that no one had the right to prevent our people from enjoying in a near future the fruit of their painful labor, I finished my note by expressing that I could not accept the propositions they made.

Such were the last words of the Constitutionalist Government in regard to the Niagara Falls conferences and the mediation offered by the A. B. C. Powers.

Undoubtedly the American Government soon was convinced of the exactness of facts and of the force of the arguments brought forward by ourselves, for it then recognized the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, as the "De Facto" Government of the Republic.

The enemies of the new regime established in the country, insisting in their criminal determination to bring about by all means the American intervention, created new and grave conflicts in the Northern frontier, the most serious of all being that of Columbus, a town across the boundary line, which was assaulted on March 9th, 1916, by Villa and his followers, who afterwards fled to the end of the States of Chihuahua and Sonora to save their lives from the impetuous attacks of the Constitutionalist forces.

The Government under my charge, as soon as it received the first news of these outrages, addressed to the United States Government a note dated the 12th of March, suggesting the idea of concerting an agreement based on reciprocity, by which the troops of either State could cross the line and pursue in the other's territory the outlaws who having committed depredations on its side fled to the other to seek refuge. Unhappily the Washington Cabinet, giving an erroneous interpretation to the ideas expressed in such note, considered that it implied permission to organize and carry out the so-called punitive expedition, which it did.

Thus did the American Government explain its attitude, adding on its behalf the necessity to act rapidly, when the Constitutionalist Government was acquainted with the occurrences and protested most firmly against them. Both Governments exchanged several notes on this account, with the result that both got ready to discuss the terms of an agreement for the reciprocal crossing of the frontier by their respective forces. Two projects formulated by the Mexican Government, and two counter-propositions offered by the United States Government, were examined and discussed. The Mexican Government insisted in both its projects that the expedition of one country into the territory of another should be limited and some restrictions should be put forth in regard to the zone of operations, the time that troops could remain in the foreign territory, the number of soldiers to form each expedition and what arms they should take along. The American Government rejected these indications, and when it finally accepted them in part in its last counter-proposition, it stated that the agreement should not rule the Columbus expedition.

Such attitude compelled the Mexican Government to address its note of April 12th, 1916, stopping the discussion of the agreement and demanding the retirement of the United States troops,

since their stay in Mexican territory was not based on any agreement and could accomplish no further use, because the Villa outlaws had been dispersed and reduced to impotence.

In view of the fact that the American Government did not answer my note nor draw back its troops, it was deemed convenient that some military chiefs hold a parley on the situation in order to reach a conclusion, which from the point of view of the Mexican Government, could not be other than the retirement of the so-called punitive expedition. With that purpose a conference was held at El Paso, Texas, between General Alvaro Obregon, Secretary of War and Navy, in behalf of the Mexican Government, and Generals Scott and Frederick Funston in behalf of the United States Government. A sketch of agreement was drafted wherein General Scott declared that the disruption of the Villa band had been wholly achieved, and therefore that the American Government decided to start the withdrawing of its troops, Mexico promising to watch carefully the frontier in order to avoid new incursions similar to that of Columbus; but a condition was added for the retirement of the American troops, to the effect that the Washington Government could stop such retirement if on account of any incident it thought that the Mexican Government lacked the full capacity needed to keep the border line, and such memorandum was not approved because my Government could not permit to be decided at the criterion of the American Government whether it should order the evacuation of Mexican territory by that country's troops, such matter falling under the exclusive jurisdiction of our sovereignty.

As the conferences were being held, a band of outlaws attacked an American garrison in Glenn Springs, crossing then the line toward the Mexican side, through Boquillas, and on this account, fearing the invasion of more troops, the Government under my charge gave instructions to General Obregon to notify the United States Government that we would never allow the coming into our territory of soldiers of that nation and advising that I had already instructed the military commanders along the frontiers to stop any invasion.

These conferences were dropped on the eleventh of May without having reached any practical result; and in view of the fact that despite the declarations made by General Scott and the protests of friendship of the American Government and the good will shown by my Government to make all possible efforts to make more strict the vigilance along the border, even neglecting the many immediate and serious attentions required for the pacifications of the country, other American platoons crossed the boundary line near a point called El Pino, advancing about sixty miles southward; and in view that the troops of the so-called punitive expedition were numerous and were amply supplied with artillery; since the Amer-

ican Government not only decreed once more the embargo on war implements, stopping on several occasions some shipments of arms and ammunition and ordering also the capture of a few pieces of machinery for the manufacture of the same, which had been bought by the Mexican Government in the United States; and, finally, in view of the fact that these acts, if not promptly remedied, would have to be considered as a hostile demonstration and a real invasion of our territory, the Government under my charge, by means of a note dated the 19th of May, 1916, made representations to the United States Government, detailing each and all these facts and circumstances, explaining as clearly as possible the reasons in its favor, expressing that said facts were contradictory to the emphatic and reiterated declarations of the Washington Cabinet, and finally insisted that said Government should withdraw its troops immediately or else my forces would be compelled to stop their advance by means of arms.

Nevertheless, wishing to resort to all honorable means of conciliation, special delegations were appointed by both the Government under my charge and the United States Government, in order that the representatives might meet and bring to a solution this affair. These conferences were started at Atlantic City.

The conflict reached its gravest point when my Government, in defense of the integrity and the National sovereignty, was forced to order to repulse by force the advance of the invaders of our territory, a clash having occurred at Carrizal, where our soldiers behaved themselves with their usual courage, and another clash occurred near Matamoros, Tamaulipas, where the inhabitants, men, women and children, in a spontaneous impulse of patriotism, joined the garrison of the town.

In that moment the war with the neighboring republic was considered as imminent, but it could be avoided through the good judgment and the coolness of both governments, who made great efforts through diplomatic channels to make the case clear, so as to act with all justice and discrimination in such delicate matter. The above-mentioned delegations dealt with the conflict.

In these diplomatic negotiations the Mexican Government established as an unavoidable basis, not to discuss any point while the American troops had not totally evacuated the national territory, and our delegates strictly complied with these instructions.

The American Government, doing justice to the Mexican Government, withdrew entirely from our country the so-called punitive expedition, and has appointed its Ambassador, with residence in Mexico City, who is already performing his commission after the solemn protocolarian reception, my Government having also designated the members of our Embassy at Washington.

In order to enumerate here every point relating to our relations with the United States Government, I must mention another

incident, even if it did not assume the serious and annoying character of the other incidents previously alluded to.

In February, 1915, the rebellious movement led by Abel Ortiz Argumedo broke out in Yucatan, and he succeeded in imposing his will all over that State, the Territory of Quintana Roo and part of the State of Campeche.

It is well known that the port of Progreso is the only one through which the main bulk of traffic is handled by Yucatan, and in order to avoid that the rebels receive help and ammunitions through that port and considering at the same time that the Mexican gun-boat "Progreso" had been blown up there, the Constitutional Government closed that port.

On this account the American Government endeavored to obtain from my Government a decree that such prohibition be raised, arguing that as a result of it the interests of American citizens and companies, who had great dealings of importance with the henequen producers of Yucatan, were impaired, as in the case of the steamship "Wisebrook," which had been taken from Progreso, where she had to discharge her cargo, to Campeche.

But the Constitutionalist Government hastened troops and elements to crush the rebels of Yucatan, and the campaign carried out against them was rapid and successful, so that Progreso was reopened after a short time, and the diplomatic incident above referred to ended automatically as a result thereof.

So there is not a single question of this nature pending between Mexico and the United States, and therefore it is highly pleasing to me to inform you in this solemn moment that our international relations with the great Republic of the North are cultivated with a manifest spirit of cordiality, nourished by a sincere desire to make them closer each day, with the best good will on both sides, for the common benefit of the two neighboring countries, upon a basis of absolute and mutual respect to the honor and integrity of each nation and the amplest liberty in enjoyment of her sovereignty.

Nevertheless, I must inform you at the same time that the United States Government, despite having removed entirely all cause of possible friction, has not raised the embargo on arms and ammunition which it decreed shortly after the assault on Columbus made by Villa and his followers, and in consequence several shipments of munitions and implements of war ordered by this Government have been embargoed.

With the same principles informing the attitude of my Government in regard to the United States, an intense endeavor to bring together and arouse a fraternal feeling among the Latin-American countries has been made, considering the strong ties uniting them to Mexico on account of being of the same origin and having the same ideals and common interests. These countries and their respective governments have answered very nicely and even with

enthusiasm to our altruistic task, from which one should expect the most copious fruits in behalf of all, especially as to the amplitude that must be reached by our mutual commercial relations, since these contribute to a great extent, you all know, to make closer and stronger the ties of friendship and concord.

For this reason the Republic has increased its personnel of the Diplomatic Corps, augmented the number of the Legations, and it is very gratifying to state here that the demonstrations of mutual consideration and sympathy shown in the course of our relations with those brotherly countries, tending always to become closer, have been very eloquent and full of meaning.

In this particular I take pleasure in mentioning specially the mutual proofs and demonstrations of profound esteem and sincere fraternity reciprocally offered by the peoples and governments of two Republics: El Salvador and the United States of Mexico.

Among other things my Government presented El Salvador with an aeroplane made in the aviation shops of this city and an apparatus of aerial telegraphy, of the "Telenfuken" type, with all its accessories; a delegation of Mexican aviators and telegraph operators having been sent to deliver the presents, and the latter taking care of the installation of the wireless station.

The Mexican commissioners were welcome with exquisite courtesy and offered many special festivities in their honor, and their ability to handle their respective apparatus won for them decorations of honor which were granted them by the Honorable President of that interesting Republic. That distinguished ruler has acted towards Mexico and her Government in a way that puts forth very clearly a profound sympathy and the highest esteem, obliging so immensely the national gratitude.

At the same time our friendly relations with the countries of other Continents have been renewed, and their respective governments have recognized the Constitutional authorities, sending their diplomatic representatives and contributing by this action to satisfy the wishes of the Mexican people, which are to live at peace and in harmony with all the civilized peoples of the earth.

In regard to the European nations, only with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain have we a pending question, which has been matter of diplomatic claims presented by my Government.

The case is that the British cruiser "Rainbow" captured without reason the national sailboat "Leonor," and the barge "Oregon," with their cargoes, the capture having occurred on May 2d, near the Corrientes cape, the former, and the latter on the 23d of April, a few miles off our coast.

The barge "Oregon," as also the sailboat "Leonor," belong to Mexican mercantile associations domiciled in the country, the proprietors of their respective cargoes being businessmen residing in the

Republic and citizens of Mexico; with the circumstance, furthermore, that said boats had on board certain merchandise and some State bills consigned to the Government of Sonora.

Both ships were exclusively engaged in coastal traffic, and were captured by the "Rainbow" in one of their trips between national ports of the Pacific, having been towed to Victoria and Esquimault, Canada, and subject to a Court of Seizures, and even taking as prisoners the captain, the cook and two engineers of the barge "Oregon."

Since such ships and their cargo belonged to Mexican companies and citizens, and to mercantile organizations residing in the country and even to the State Government of Sonora, and in view of the fact that such ships did not have on board any contraband of war nor could be considered as suspicious in this respect, because they were engaged in coastal shipping, a great distance from the war zone of the Allies and the Central Powers, the Government under my charge made energetic and most emphatic protests and claims to the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and her Government has already ordered that the articles belonging to the State of Sonora be returned; and it is to be hoped, given the uprightness and the justice of the interested parties and the Mexican Government, that the British Government will order also the return of said ships and merchandise to their respective owners or pay the corresponding indemnity. As to the people taken with the above-mentioned ships, they have been brought back to their country.

It is a fact, therefore, that the Mexican Republic is at peace and in harmony with all the foreign nations, and it is eagerly attempting to re-establish and consolidate the interior tranquility upon the basis of the principles and reforms proclaimed by the Revolution.

The gigantic war that has been on in Europe for more than two years, fierce and gory, between two groups of belligerent nations, and which has been propagated like a fire, involving the United States, Cuba and Brazil, seems to be threatening the whole American Continent.

In view of this menace, the Constitutionalist Government, complying with the very imperative duties of self-preservation and defense, guided by humanitarian sentiments, has addressed itself to the governments of all the neutral nations, in a note signed the eleventh of February, making propositions to the effect of acting in common accord and proceeding on the basis of absolute equality towards both and each of the contending groups of Powers, inviting them all to put an end to this war by their own action or through the good offices and friendly mediation of all countries making conjointly such invitation, with the understanding that if peace cannot be re-established by such means, the neutrals should take the necessary measures to reduce the conflagration to its strict

boundaries, stopping all commercial traffic with the nations at war so far as the conflict lasts. The note finally insinuates that if the idea is accepted it may establish a precedent and be the basis of future actions in case of new international wars.

The Constitutional Government congratulates itself for the interests and attention caused by said note in all the foreign Chancelleries, and it is our hope that such or other adequate means shall be resorted to for an early re-establishment of peace between said belligerent peoples. Peace is an inestimable treasure for any country; but for Mexico, weakened and anaemic as a fatal consequence, altogether unavoidable, of the hard and long struggle she has fought to conquer the principles and reforms considered as indispensable for her welfare, her progress and development, her own internal peace as much as with other countries, constitute a momentous and irresistible necessity.

For this reason the Constitutionalist Government, placing itself at a level with its duties and interpreting the wishes of the Mexican people, has made and shall continue making the greatest efforts, by all means within its reach, to consolidate the interior order of the Republic and keep its relations of friendship and harmony with all the nations of the earth.

In the performance of the high duties of self-preservation and defense of the national interests, always inspired by the profoundest sentiments of altruism and humanity, the principle of the Government under my charge will be to obtain, resorting to all proper and possible means, our permanence within the most strict and rigorous neutrality.

Without belittling all these important matters which I have briefly related, the Department of Foreign Relations has been called upon to solve many other questions of the day.

For instance, a great numbers of naturalization papers have been granted; several promotions have been decided upon, and some are pending but under way; the claims presented through diplomatic channels have been given preference, and those deserving it have had legal consideration; the several sections or Departments of the Ministry are working regularly, and it is proper to say here that in regard to the solution of some matters, in order to establish clear and well defined rules, I issued a Decree on November 11th, 1916, confirming certain official acts, mentioned therein, executed during the usurping administration of Huerta and the Convention, reserving to the Government of the Republic the right of nullifying or revalidating the other acts performed during these periods according to the circumstances of each case.

Let me finish in this regard by declaring that the Consular Corps is being studied in its organization to better the whole consular system, while the Republic is being placed on the firm basis of the implanted principles and the fought-for liberties, won by

the Revolution, as such matters developing our agriculture and all industries improving our rich soil and extending the bulk of our trade as much as possible, are receiving special attention from my Government, and to such a purpose the Consular Agents must lend very efficacious aid, as for instance by making known in foreign countries our resources and products.

With all possible truthfulness I have informed you, in general terms, on the status of all things concerning this interesting branch of the Public Administration. You know well that the affairs related to the Foreign Department are, on account of their very nature, important and delicate, requiring a great deal of attention and deep study, since they represent oftentimes the honor and dignity of the Nation, in some occasions being so transcendental as to affect the future of the Republic; and if these matters are difficult and delicate even in normal times of peace and tranquility, they certainly become much harder and intense in a period of civil war, as the one we have lived of late, during which many obstacles, incessantly opposed to the contradictory interests of each case and the political passion accrued by the struggle, must be added to the natural and common difficulties of said matters.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The diplomatic relations of the Mexican Government with other foreign governments have not changed except to grow even more cordial.

This Government, wishing to draw closer bonds of friendship among Spanish-American countries, appointed Señor Salvador Martínez Alomía, a Lawyer, a year ago, as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister of Mexico in special mission before the Central American Governments, this gentleman having performed his mission in a most satisfactory way. Señor Isidro Fabela, a Lawyer, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister to Argentine, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, was recently appointed with the same character before the Government of Paraguay, so as to establish diplomatic relations between Mexico and that country. Colonel Fernando Cuén, also a Lawyer, was invested with the same character to represent Mexico in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, having been received by the President of Colombia the 8th of May and by the President of Venezuela the 4th of August, while the presentation of his credentials to the Ecuadorean Government was to take place later on. Señor Manuel Méndez Palacios, a Lawyer, was appointed as Resident Minister to Peru and Bolivia, and was received by the Peruvian President on April 17th, and by the President of Bolivia on the 8th of May this year. Finally, Señor

Manuel Rivas, Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim in El Salvador, having died, Señor Antonio Hernández Ferrer was appointed to take his place as Resident Minister, and this gentleman has already left for that country to take charge of our Legation.

The Governments of the Spanish-American republics have readily and spontaneously answered to the friendly feelings of the Mexican Government. The republics of Argentine, Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala have sent their diplomatic representatives to Mexico. The Cuban Government appointed His Excellency Don Ramon Pio de Ajuria as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister, and he was received on May 7th of this year in public and solemn audience; the Government of Uruguay was pleased to send the Honorable Pedro Erasmo Callorda, accredited before the Department of State as Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim by His Excellency Dr. Carlos Maria de la Peña, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister to Mexico, with residence at Washington. Señor Callorda had been recognized with this character on the 19th of June this year. Finally, the Hondurean Government accredited before our Government His Excellency Dr. Ricardo de J. Urrutia, as Resident Minister, raising the category of its diplomatic mission in Mexico, and Dr. Urrutia was received in public and solemn audience the 18th of August.

Among our diplomatic representatives in Europe just one new appointment has been made, in behalf of Señor Eliseo Arredondo, a Lawyer, as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister to Spain, having been received by His Majesty Alphonso XIII on the 10th of August.

During the time covered by this report there were 45 Consulates of Mexico acting abroad and two Inspectors of the same, one for our offices in the United States and the other for our European Consular offices. It is very satisfactory for me to tell you that the amounts collected by our Consulates have increased considerably over the actual collections obtained prior to 1913. During the months of May and June the Consular Offices had an income of \$1,241,576.00, according to the accounts kept at the Book-keeping Department of the State Department, whereas the expenses made, covering wages and extraordinary items of the Foreign Office, the Diplomatic Corps and the consular service, were not over \$400,000 during the same period, which leaves a difference of \$841,567 in behalf of the Erarium, with the understanding that a few consulates have not sent their reports as yet, and their data are not included therein.

In August 1909 the training sloop "Zaragoza" rammed by accident at the port of Veracruz the Norwegian steamship "North Heing," which was badly damaged. The Legation of Norway presented a claim for \$2,561.76 as indemnity for the damages inflicted to the "North Heing," according to itemized account offered. The case was considered and in view that the claim was justified,

since the national training ship had been responsible for the accident, the Mexican Government approved last June to pay that sum to the Norwegian Minister.

A Convention was signed on April 28th by the Sub-Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the Honorable Tamekich Otha in behalf of Japan, on the practicing of the following professions: Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Obstetrics and Veterinary. It was agreed by said Convention that the citizens of each one of the high contracting parties will be allowed to practice freely such professions as above named in the territory of the other, provided said citizens have been authorized to act in that capacity by means of a diploma or title issued by the proper authority of their respective country. The Senate passed a law approving of this Convention and such law has been duly enacted.

On the 7th of last June an earthquake shook the city of San Salvador, destroying it almost entirely as well as other neighboring towns. The Mexican Government expressed its profound and sincere condolence to the Government of El Salvador for such a terrible catastrophe and its serious consequences, and having in view the feelings of the people and the Government of Mexico, the Executive submitted an initiative to the National Congress proposing that \$30,000 be given to that sister Republic to help the victims of the catastrophe, which we lamented as though it had been our own. The initiative was approved and the respective amount was sent to the Salvadorean Government.

On the 22d of last June the same Government expressed to our Foreign Office that as a token of sympathy and regard towards the Mexican Government, El Salvador had decided to make a gift to our Legation over there of a piece of land for the Legation's quarters, the location and size of the parcel to be chosen by our diplomatic representative.

The Mexican Government accepted and was greatly pleased with so valuable and expressive a gift, and at the same time expressed to the Salvadorean Government its deep and sincere acknowledgment for this new eloquent proof of sympathy and friendship.

The Executive under my charge gave instructions last June to our Ambassador at Washington, D. C., to request of the American Government the restitution of two million cartridges of seven millimeters and 733,000 cartridges of "30-30," which are embargoed at the border on account of the prohibition to export arms into Mexico. The American Government consented to the wishes of the Mexican Government and gave instructions to His Excellency Henry P. Fletcher, United States Ambassador to Mexico, to agree with us on the details of the delivery of the ammunition, and the Ambassador was advised on the subject. News has been received to the effect that the cartridges will be handed over to the commissioners of the Mexican Government appointed to that purpose.

The Honorable Congress with whom I have the honor to speak is acquainted with the fact that last January the Costa Rica Government was overthrown by means of a coup d'état carried out without bloodshed. The Government emanated from that movement has succeeded in consolidating itself and has been sanctioned by the free vote of the people. For this reason and as an act of respect for the sovereignty of that Republic and for its legitimate right to adopt the Government it deems fit, the Executive under my charge recognized the new President now ruling over that Sister Republic, thus complying with the highest duties of Hispano-American solidarity.

The Honorable Congress knows also that on the 11th of February of this year the Mexican Government addressed a note to the neutral governments expressing the sincere wish to render its assistance toward bringing to an end the gory struggle now destroying Europe and which affects and threatens the rest of the world. As a consequence of such an initiative of the Mexican Government, the Argentinean Government advised us through our diplomatic representative in Buenos Aires on its decision to invite all the Latin-American republics to a Congress that was to meet at Buenos Aires, in order to combine the efforts of all the Hispano-American nations in behalf of a prompt peace without curtailing the rights of the belligerent nations. The Mexican Government very readily accepted this invitation which was made by the Argentine Government to all the Latin-American republics, and the 19th of May His Excellency Manuel E. Malbrán, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Argentine, kindly informed us that the invitation had been likewise accepted by Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Perú, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Haiti, the answer from the other countries of the Continent being expected. The same Minister also informed that his Government expected the acceptance of the other nations in order to propose the date for the meeting to take place, and that the Argentinean Foreign Office had already addressed a note to the countries which had not answered, requesting of them to express their governments' views on the projected meeting, and finally commenting that such Congress was not intended to discuss permanent points of international law but simply to study the incidents provoked by the war, dealing in particular with the situation created to the neutrals by the conflict, and also to look for the way to harmonize all opinions in regard to this matter and co-ordinate the intentions of our countries. The Mexican Government answered by requesting the Argentine Minister to please suggest to his Government the convenience of avoiding any procrastination in the arrangement of the meeting, even expressing that the nations that had not accepted the invitation might as well give a reply later on and even attend the Congress through their proper representatives; but on the 22d of July our representative in Buenos Aires informed the Department of

State that the President of the Argentine Republic deemed it convenient to postpone indefinitely the calling of the Neutrals' Congress on account of having failed to make a uniform criterion of all the Latin-American countries, and also because he thought it advisable to avoid a misinterpretation of the purposes for which the meeting had been projected.

The Mexican Government has seen, much to its sorrow, that these endeavors towards peace having not met the success wished for, the world war has spread over and entangled even some nations which are completely foreign to the interests fought for in that gigantic struggle without precedent in History; however, this Government, being inspired now as always by the loftiest and most sincere human feelings, the same that made us suggest the meeting of the neutrals in February, will never abandon the idea of doing something to hasten the coming of an everlasting and honorable peace.

Mexico would consider herself very happy if allowed to lend her disinterested help for the re-establishment of universal harmony, and wishing to contribute to such humanitarian task will not let any opportunity pass that future happenings may offer her to perform her heartfelt wishes.

In order to better realize this mission offered her by Fate, Mexico shall continue to observe the most strict neutrality, since she is in no way connected with the interests for which the European peoples are fighting and since all these nations respect her as she respects them. Such has been and shall be the inflexible rule of the Mexican attitude.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

(Report of Sept. 1st, 1918.)

The Republic still remains neutral in the middle of the European conflict each day enveloping other countries, our experience having demonstrated that the Government under my charge has been right in proclaiming and keeping its neutrality. Such attitude has won the unanimous approval of the public opinion. The Executive Power is glad of having obtained by the maintenance of such neutrality the welfare of the Mexican people.

In order to comply in a proper way with all the duties imposed on us by the neutral attitude we have assumed, the Foreign Department issued in due time and made widely known a circular note containing the principles of the International Law and of certain Conventions signed at La Hague, which were applicable to the case. However, despite the fact that all the authorities, each within his sphere, have acted in full accordance with the suggestions of the

Executive in order to keep a loyal and strict neutrality, Mexico has often been compelled to demand the respect due to her neutrality, and on this account several difficult and most delicate cases have arisen. The Executive, therefore, is authorized to say that the maintenance of its neutrality has meant a constant effort on the part of the Government.

The United States authorities, in order to supply sufficiently their allies, have adopted several measures restricting that country's imports and exports, as also the traffic of people across our boundary line. The Mexican Government intended to make an agreement on commercial intercourse, so as to obtain in exchange of articles which Mexico produces and are needed by the United States, a certain amount of cereals and other food stuff. The commissioners went so far as drafting a treaty, which the Mexican Executive did not approve of because it did not seem to meet the requirements of the moment. At the same time it was noted that the drafted agreement contained certain clauses which were against public rights. During a long time our country has lived on its own resources, without missing anything needed, thanks to the country's vitality and its exuberant soil. Not long ago the President of the United States, wishing to give a token of true friendship to Mexico, declared that he would permit the exportation from his country into Mexico of food articles and other products. By virtue of such a franchise various amounts of goods have been imported.

In regard to commercial matters the Government has had to solve some other problems also connected with its neutrality. The so-called "Black Lists" are nothing but restrictions imposed on the trade of a neutral country, at the will of the belligerent nations, to stop all transactions with the subjects of enemy countries. Mexico has not recognized such lists, and within her territory they have not the force of law. Various cases have occurred in which the Mexican authorities have had to intervene in the most energetic way, to compel certain steamship Captains to deliver merchandise consigned to individuals or concerns included in the "Black Lists," to which such Captains were opposed. Let me give you an account of the following case: the Captain of the Steamship San Pedro refused to disembark certain cargo consigned to a Mexican and a German house, both located at Guaymas. The United States Consul finally agreed that such cargo would be delivered. But the British Consul only consented to the disembarking of the merchandise for the Mexican house. The Captain of the steamer was ordered to furnish a heavy bond; the corresponding representations was made before the United States Government, advising the American Foreign Office that the Mexican Government would find itself in the necessity of drawing off the exequatur of the American Consuls who dared to assume the same attitude adopted by the Consul at Guaymas, and, in view that the British Consul had acted in open hostility and backed the

attitude of the Captain, his exequatur was immediately withdrawn.

To say the last word in regard to the restrictions imposed on the maritime trade of Mexico as a result of the world war, I must inform this Honorable Congress that the United States Government has established various severe dispositions in regard to the supply of coal and foodstuffs to ships leaving its ports, that is, such ships are not provided with fuel unless their Captains or the ship's owners swear to take the vessel back to an American port as soon as she is unloaded at the port of its destination. Considering that such disposition interrupts our trade, we have endeavored to obtain an exception in behalf of our merchantmen.

It is necessary to state here certain violations to our neutrality.

Many United States war ships have called at our territorial waters on both our coasts, and have, in general, respected the principles of International Law as to their stay in our ports, their supply, the right of visit, etc., etc. I say in general, because there have been some exceptions, consisting in the fact that some vessels, instead of remaining 24 hours in our waters, are stationed there even longer. In these cases the corresponding diplomatic representations have been made.

Last January an incident arose in Ensenada, Lower California, caused by the Captain of the United States war ship "Iroquois," who ordered some of his men to go aboard the United States merchant man "Norfolk" to compel this vessel to leave immediately for San Diego, California, without previously informing the Custom House nor the Mexican authorities. He based his action on the fact that said ship was violating the dispositions contained in the "Trade with the Enemy Act." As soon as an energetic protest was made by our Ambassador, full satisfaction was given to our demand, and we were officially informed that the Commander of the "Iroquois" had been removed as a punishment to his offense.

In April this year several marines who had disembarked from certain United States war ships in Tampico, raised trouble and killed a Mexican policeman who had arrived at the point where the riot took place. A bloody affray was the result of it, in which two more Mexicans and two Anglo-American sailors lost their lives. The eleven marines who survived the strife were captured and after sixteen hours of imprisonment they were set free because it was made clear that the two marines that got killed were the only ones to blame for the happenings.

Our Foreign Office was informed that in the port of Mazatlan the United States gun-boat "Brutus" has violated the sovereignty of Mexico. Said vessel remained in our territorial waters for more than twenty-four hours as agreed upon at La Hague Convention, and under these circumstances the British Vice-Consul requested of our authorities that the steamship "Brutus" were allowed to tug a British merchant-man anchored in the Bay of Mazatlan. Our

authorities denied the solicited permit, and as a precaution against a possible transgression it was endeavored to remove the British ship "Violet" (this was her name) to some other point of the Bay, a move that the U. B.—Chaser 302 tried to impede by threatening our authorities, even within our own territorial waters, with firing on them if such action was taken. To this effect said boat was placed in a hostile attitude, with her gun loaded, her machine guns ready to shoot and her men on board armed with pistols and rifles. The U.B.—Chaser finally placed herself in a position proper to facilitate her men to cut off the tugging rope, but her men could not do it despite their efforts. Our Ambassador was timely advised to protest against such outrage.

The same Foreign Office was advised that the United States warship "Marblehead," had stopped a merchant ship of the same nationality, not far from our Pacific Coast, and the Mexican Accountant Juan R. Ramirez, had been captured on board under the accusation of having violated certain United States laws issued on account of the war. Our authorities are making the necessary investigations and gathering information bearing on the case, so as to proceed in the proper way.

The Port-Captain of Magdalena Bay, Lower California, has informed that several United States war ships often enter said Bay and make there their military drill, even disembarking their men to drill them on land, without having the courtesy of advising our authorities and remaining in the bay longer than allowed by the International Law. Our Ambassador at Washington has already been instructed to make the corresponding protests.

Two United States war-ships are anchored at Tampico since a long time ago, the "Ozark" and the "Annapolis," violating the same principles above referred to, and interrupting with the activity of their wireless apparatus the messages transmitted by our Government. The use of said wireless apparatus is a new violation to La Hague Convention. The corresponding claims will be made soon, **BECAUSE THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS THAT THE NEUTRALITY OF MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS MUST BE STRICTLY RESPECTED, AND IN NO CASE AND FOR NO REASON CAN ITS VIOLATION BE CONSIDERED AS JUSTIFIED.**

The American authorities, on account of the war, still continue committing acts which are against the rights of Mexicans residing in that country. When the Military Attaché to the Mexican Legation sent to Japan went through San Francisco, California, the Naval authorities of the port and three custom-inspectors, using false keys, unlocked said Attaché's baggage. Our Ambassador was immediately ordered to protest before the Washington Authorities.

The aviators of the American Army continue flying above our territory, despite the promises made by the United States Government to stop such flights and also despite our protests.

It was recently known that the United States U. B.—Chaser 379 had been anchored for some days at a certain point of our coast near Santa Rosalía, Lower California, and when her commander was questioned by our authorities in regard to his stay in our waters, he answered that he was there by orders of his Government and would not retire without orders from the same source. Another ship of the same nationality arrived at that place later on and then the other vessel went off and held up a Mexican ship navigating in that neighborhood. In this case as in all others the Department has acted in the due form.

On the 27th of August, when a Mexican citizen was about to cross the line from Nogales, Arizona, into Nogales, Sonora—two towns separated by a street through which runs the boundary line dividing the two countries—the American soldiers commanded him to stop, which he did not obey. Then, when he was already within national territory, the soldiers fired on him and caused his death. The shots were answered back by the Mexican wardens who were on watch, caused the shooting to increase and the people of both sides of the frontier to take arms, as well as our small garrison of the Mexican town, which did not count over a half hundred of men. The American soldiers invaded the territory of the Republic on the east, but were repulsed. The engagement lasted three hours, and it stopped as a result of an agreement being reached between the Mexican and American military authorities through our Consul at Nogales, Arizona. There were thirteen men killed and fifteen wounded on our side, Señor Félix B. Peñaloza, Mayor of Nogales, being among the former. The greater number of our loss was made of civilians, since just one soldier and two wardens of the Custom House lost their lives. The American press has made known that the Americans lost thirty-three people, killed and wounded, all except one belonging to the military element of that country. General Plutarco Elías Calles, Governor of Sonora, held a conference with the United States General Campbell, and both agreed that the judicial authorities of each country would make the correspondnig investigations as to the origin of the conflict, and would then inform their respective governments. It was also agreed that reciprocal measures would be adopted to avoid the repetition of the incident, to which a merely local character was attached, since both peoples keep most friendly relations, and none of the governments had had any intervention in the affairs. The commercial intercourse of the two neighboring towns was immediately restored. The Mexican Government will see to it that the solution of this regrettable incident be made through the proper channels and within terms of strict justice.

Mexico has suffered from the countries at war the violation of her mail, not only the ordinary one but in some cases even of the diplomatic and official mailbags. Of course whenever it has been

reasonable, the proper claim has been presented according to the principles of the International Law.

Recruiting.—On account of the United States having entered the European war, President Wilson issued a Proclamation on May 18th, 1917, summoning all men between 21 and 31 years of age, residing in the United States, to register for their enrolment in the army. Once registered each individual could adduce the exemptions he might have in his favor to free himself from military service, for instance, basing his exemption on his foreign nationality, etc. A large number of our countrymen residing in that country, belong to the working class; they are laborers or craftsmen, and, through ignorance, did not obey the order of registration, or did not solicit their exemption once they had been registered, and on this account many of them were forced to enter the army, while some were actually sent to the front.

In all cases put up to our Ambassador and our Consular agents, these officials did all they could to get Mexican citizens out of the American army so that they could go back to their work.

The great difficulty met in pursuing this object was the necessity of presenting a complete proof of their nationality, because the greater part of them lacked the documents that proved their Mexican origin. Nevertheless, whenever our Ambassador or our Consuls had sufficient proofs as to a Mexican's nationality, they succeeded in obtaining his exemption even though he had been already enlisted.

Another great difficulty had to be overcome in this regard. Many men of Mexican origin had tried to obtain the United States citizenship, having made what is called in that country "declaration of intention," which is a previous act, a certain term to be counted from it, at the end of which the applicant repeats his petition and obtains the American nationality. All those who had made their first declaration were considered by the United States authorities as under the obligation of taking up arms; but our Government, considering that a mere "declaration of intention" did not mean a change of nationality, neither according to our laws nor according to the United States laws, has firmly insisted that such Mexicans should be exempted for the military service, since they are not American citizens. Said Government on its part declares that the respective law compels to take up arms even those individuals who had only made the first declaration. However, the American Government added in its note that the President of the Republic, wishing to demonstrate its good will towards neutral countries like Mexico, would take up and consider the application of any Mexican who might be in the said conditions, provided our Government asked for it, furnishing ample proofs as to the nationality of the interested party.

One more difficulty still arose on account of the conscription: the United States laws, based on the principles of "jus soli," prescribe

that all individuals born in the American territory have that nationality. (Amendment XIV, Fraction I of the United States Federal Constitution). At the same time, our laws (Article 30 of our Constitution) consider as Mexicans those who are born of Mexican parentage in foreign countries. This conflict of our respective laws is of the kind for which there is no possible solution, the International Law advising that the law of the country of residence should be applied. Therefore, in the cases we speak of our Government can do nothing in behalf of our countrymen born across the Bravo River, unless we end such conflict by means of a Treaty.

As a result of the various representations made by our Embassy at Washington on this account, declarations have been received from the State Department promising to consider the applications made by the Mexican Government and to adopt a plan by which the enlisted men who may present enough data to form a reasonable presumption of their Mexican citizenship will be allowed to remain in the United States until a definitive resolution is passed on their case. Despite all this some Mexican citizens are still being sent to the front, and it has originated very energetic protests of our Embassy. Our claims are based upon the fact that the enlisted Mexicans—workmen almost all of them—have not fulfilled the complicated formalities demanded for their registration, exemption, etc., through ignorance, because many of them do not know how either to read or write, and consequently they act in good faith, being included in Section 139 of the Selective Conscription Law of the United States, which prescribes that the exemption will be granted when the military service be considered as excessive or a punishment to the persons whose guiltiness is not voluntary.

The truth is that various Mexicans enlisted against their will have perished at the front, others have not obtained their freedom yet, and others are still fighting in Europe.

Worth noting is the case of Martinez Sánchez Guerrero, whose nationality has been made perfectly clear, despite which our Ambassador has not received a favorable solution on Sánchez's exemption. Our Ambassador refers to this and other similar cases in the following terms: "It is a long time since exemption has been granted to any of the enlisted Mexicans, and there are some cases which have been under discussion for the last six months without satisfactory results."

Such a delicate situation is threatening to become even more acute on account of the tide of Mexican workmen migrating into the United States, who are wanted by the farmers of that country, because although they are very urgently needed over there, they are required to fill certain formalities, to make some declarations and even to renounce their nationality. The Mexican Government cannot legally impede the emigration of the Mexican laborer, but it has endeavored that such laborer be informed as to the contin-

gencies he exposes himself to, and the Embassy has drafted a labor contract to guarantee to some extent the interested party so far as the integrity of this salary, the treatment he is to receive and his return to Mexico. The Executive intends never to neglect this question nor that of the recruiting, always endeavoring to obtain a satisfactory solution to both problems.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY OF MEXICO.

The international policy of Mexico has been characterized by the sureness in the development of the principles it is based upon. The achieved results are sufficiently satisfactory, and therefore the Executive has been supported by public opinion in all international questions arisen during the year I inform you of. Our wish that similar action as Mexico has taken in this regard be also adopted by all countries and all legislations, particularly in Latin-America, where the specific phenomena are very much like our own, has given to such principles a doctrinary character full of meaning, especially so if considered that such principles were set by me as First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Union, during the very revolutionary struggle, and those declarations were intended to inform the whole world on the purpose of the Revolution, our wishes of a universal peace and our fraternal feelings towards Latin-America. The directing ideas of our new international policy are few, clear and simple. They merely proclaim the following:

That all countries are equal; they must respect, mutually and scrupulously, their institutions, their laws and their sovereignty;

That no country must intervene in any form and for any reason in the internal matters of other country. All must submit strictly and without exceptions to the universal principles of non-intervention;

That no individual should ever pretend to enjoy a better situation than the citizens of the country where he intends to reside, nor to make of his foreign nationality a title to protection and privilege. Nationals and foreigners must be aequal under the sovereignty of the country where they are; finally,

That the legislations must be uniform and alike in what may be possible, without establishing distinctions on account of nationality, except in matters connected with each country's sovereignty.

The actual meaning of diplomacy is radically modified by this aggregate of principles. Diplomacy must not be used for the protection of private interests nor to place at their service the strength and power of the nations. Neither should it be used to exert pressure on the governments of small nations for the purpose of

getting modifications to the laws deemed as inconvenient by the citizens of powerful countries.

Diplomacy must watch over the general interests of civilization and look after the establishment of universal confraternity.

The main principles of the International Law as it is today are about to be modified because they have proven to be inefficacious to prevent international wars and put an end in a short term to the world conflict. Mexico tried to contribute to the reform of the old principles and she has already expressed on various occasions her willingness to lend her good offices for any settlement. Mexico hopes that the end of the war will be the beginning of a new era for mankind, and hopes also for the day when private interest be not the hidden spring of international policy, and many causes for war and conflicts among the peoples shall disappear from the earth.

In short, equality, mutual respect to the institutions and laws, and the firm and constant resolution not to intervene at all, under any pretext, in the internal affairs of other countries, have been the fundamental principles of the international policy adopted by the Executive under my charge. At the same it has tried to obtain for Mexico the same attitude is assumed, that is, to be considered as a sovereign nation equal to the other peoples, that its laws and institutions be respected, and that no nation intervene in any form in our internal affairs.

Two important incidents, to which the Executive calls your attention, have given occasion to apply these new principles:

1st.—The Republic of Cuba, on account of being at war with Germany, has had to adopt certain measures she deemed convenient to perform the duties she has assumed as a belligerent and as an ally to the nations by whose side she is fighting. The Mexican Government shall never take the liberty of discussing the legislative acts of a free nation; but the application of the dispositions given out by the Cuban authorities would have been considered as cause of claims by the Mexicans affected thereby, and such claims, if presented, would have produced a double result equally damaging to the fraternity that must bind the two peoples; that is, by such claims the free action of the Cuban Government would have been barred, and also frictions would have occurred as an unavoidable consequence of such frequent claims. The Mexican Government has retired its Diplomatic representative, giving by this act a very eloquent proof of its respect to the sovereignty of a friendly country which goes now through a critical period, and giving Cuba also a token of confidence. Because we trust Cuba, we have left under the protection of the Cuban laws the numerous Mexican Colony and its interests, without pretending to obtain for both, our citizens and their property, a especial protection demanded by a representative, thus avoiding claims and frictions opposed to our programme of

international policy for all the nations of the world. The Republic of Cuba will not be thwarted by Mexico in the execution of the measures she has deemed necessary to adopt to meet the requirements of the actual situation, and she and Mexico still are bound by the same friendly relations, communicating with each other through their respective foreign offices. The Cuban Government has well understood the disinterestedness and sincerity of Mexico, and has left here its representative. Mexico, as soon as the especial circumstances under which that Republic finds itself have disappeared, shall send again her Plenipotentiary Minister.

The situation I just exposed seems entirely without precedent in the annals of International Law, and it has not failed to cause certain astonishment to see that the diplomatic relations between our countries are still on foot despite the lack of a Mexican representative. But there is, against all appearances, the true friendship of our peoples and the intention of the Government to promote and strengthen it.

Mexico practices in this case the principles she has set forth: the equality of natives and foreigners and the complete submission of all to the sovereignty of the country where they are.

2d.—On February 19th this year, the Mexican Government issued a Decree taxing oil lands and the lease of oil fields. This law is too perfectly widely known to insist on detailing its clauses. The Governments of the United States, England, Holland and France presented diplomatic claims, the three firstly mentioned countries making a formal protest against the enforcing of the Decree so far as their respective interest went. France limited herself to make the inconveniences that, in her own opinion, said Decree would mean for the stock companies in which French stockholders are included.

The Decree that caused the diplomatic notes being of a fiscal nature, emanated from the sovereign power with full authority to create taxes and dictate laws to rule over all owners of lands and the contractors of oil fields without exceptions, be they Mexicans or foreigners, the Mexican Government answered said notes, denying to any and all the nations the right of protest against acts of this kind, emphasizing the equality there must be among nationals and foreigners in regard to Mexican fiscal legislation; it drew the attention towards the rashness of the diplomatic representation, which ordinarily is the last measure to resort to, when the legal proceedings of the country have been uselessly gone through, that is, when there is, properly, a denial of justice. In view of the fact that the American Government announced in its first note and ratified it in a later one, that it might find itself compelled to protect the American interests invested in the country which might suffer from the enforcement of the Decree in question, and since as a result of claims presented by the Mexican Government demanding the respect due to her neutrality in the territorial waters of the Republic, the Amer-

ican Government has expressed again to our Embassy its intention to "protect" in Mexico the interests of its citizens in danger, declaring that the United States ships will only respect our neutrality in the places where such protection may not be necessary, the Mexican Government answered that the protection of the Mexican and foreign interests in Mexico is a duty and at the same time a faculty exclusively its own; it exposed the contradiction there is between these threatening declarations and the repeated words of friendship and respect for Mexico made by President Wilson, whose pacifist ideals are well known. At the same time the Mexican Government deemed opportune to declare that it did not accept any actions that under the name or under the excuse of "protection" were taken to thwart administrative measures legitimately adopted, since such action would be against the national dignity. It also expressed that in stating these reasons the Mexican Government was sure to count on the unanimous support of public opinion and the help of the nation in case of her sovereignty and her dignity being offended. In other place of this same report I inform this Honorable Body as to the merely technical part of the oil question and the result of the respective dispositions.

Mexico is at peace with all the world and maintains diplomatic relations with all the nations; she has received tokens of esteem and friendship from distant countries, even the remotest, as Japan and all Latin America.

Despite the death of His Majesty Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary, and the advent to the throne of His Imperial and Royal Majesty Charles I, our relations with that country have not been interrupted; on the contrary, Mexico had the honor of giving opportunity to receive in public audience, the 14th of September, 1917, her Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister, who delivered the letters confirming him in such character.

Likewise the Government received in public and solemn audience the Extraordinary Envoys and Plenipotentiary Minister of the Kingdoms of Italy and Belgium, on the 25th of September, 1917, and March 11th, 1918, respectively.

The Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister from Spain left our country on account of having been appointed by his Government with the same character to the Republic of Portugal.

In place of His Excellency Don Alejandro Padilla y Bell, His Majesty the King of Spain appointed His Excellency Don Antonio de Zayas, Duke of Amalfi, who was received in public and solemn audience as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister.

The Honorable Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim from Japan having left Mexico, later on, His Excellency Baron Fugitaro Otori was received in public and solemn audience as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister of His Majesty the Emperor Yoshihito.

Obedying a call of their respective Governments, left the country the Extraordinary Envoys and Plenipotentiary Ministers from France, Guatemala and Norway, who left duly accredited their own Chargés of Legation.

Once the diplomatic relations with the sister Republic of Nicaragua were renewed, the Foreign Office of that country accredited here a Chargé d'Affairs, who delivered his credentials to the Secretary of State.

For the purpose of expressing to our Government the acknowledgment of the Salvadorean Government for the attitude of the Mexican people and Government in front of the lamentable catastrophe occurred to that sister Republic, a detailed account of which you have had in the press, that Government sent to our country an Especial Mission presided over by His Excellency Don José Leiva, as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister, which was received in public and solemn audience. As soon as his mission ended Señor Leiva returned to his country, accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Gustavo Baron, Residing Minister from El Salvador, who obtained from his Government a leave of absence for several months on account of failing health.

The Swedish Government designated its Chargé d'Affairs ad-interim as effective Chargé d'Affairs.

Allow me to inform you also on which are the countries that have answered up to the present date the notification of the taking possession of the Executive under my charge:

Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Belgium, Honduras, United States of America, Argentine, Uruguay, Denmark, Swede, Germany, Brazil, Japan, Austria-Hungary, Spain, Norway, Holland, Turkey, Peru and Cuba.

On the 15th of September, 1917, the wireless station with which Mexico presented the Republic of El Salvador, was definitely installed. On that account Mexico received sincere testimonies of high esteem, the President of that Republic having decorated two of the Mexican telegraph operators who were commissioned by our Government.

On February 23d, 1917, the Mexican aviators delivered to the commissioners of the Salvadorean Government a biplane built in the Aviation shops of this capital, presented by our Government as a token of sympathy and cordiality.

The Mexican delegates were decorated by the President of that Republic, who made a brilliant speech at the end of the ceremony held on that account, praising our people, our Government and the Mexican Army.

Our Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister to the South American countries, immediately upon the death of the Uruguayan writer José Enrique Rodó, addressed a heart-felt note of condolence to the Secretary of State of that Republic; thus perform-

ing a duty of solidarity. The Uruguayan Foreign Office replied in the most expressive form, thanking us in the name of the people and the Government of that country for the cordial expression of the feelings shown in the note of our representative.

Our Foreign Office, complying with the resolution of the Honorable Lower House passed on July 11th, 1917, instructed our Representative in South America to inform the Uruguayan Government on the condolence of our Congress on account of Señor Rodó's death, and the same Foreign Office advised also the Honorable Chargé d'Affairs of Uruguay in Mexico.

The Local Congress of Students of the Federal District, acting in behalf of the Mexican students, solicited that the custom be established to select among the intellectual young men of the Republic the minor personnel of our Consulates and Legations, especially of those located in South American countries.

The Government taking into consideration the ideals of Latin-American fraternity which inspired the students' application, accepted their idea and will see to its realization.

The Government of Brazil advised our Government through its Legation in this city that for the purpose of carrying out a policy of American fraternity, it had resolved to accept, as a permanent measure, the inscription of alumni from all the Republics of the American Continent in the Academies and the Military and Naval Schools of that country.

The Mexican Government, wishing to complete its diplomatic legations in Europe, asked the English Government whether Señor Alfonso Siller was "*persona grata*," as our intention was to send him to England as Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister. The British Foreign Office answered that it was not willing to consider such question unless Mexico gave assurance to observe a neutral attitude in the war and to protect the interest of the British subjects. Since the Mexican Government has strictly performed its duties as a neutral country and has always endeavored to give full guaranties to the foreign and the national interests, thus it was communicated to England, and we have not insisted in designating a Minister, because the Executive under my charge deems preferable for the dignity and the tranquillity of the country not to maintain diplomatic relations but with those countries which grant us all respect and treat us with the equality we are entitled to.

We also asked the French Government whether Señor Rafael Nieto would be "*persona grata*" as Minister of Mexico. Up to the present no answer has been received.

In regard to our relations with Latin-America, allow me to inform you that we shall shortly submit to the ratification of the Senate the appointments made to complete and improve our diplomatic service in those sister Republics.

CONFERENCES, CONGRESSES AND CONVENTIONS.

Mexico received an invitation for our labor institutions to attend an "International Labor Meeting" at Santiago, Chile, which was made known to all the workers of the Republic.

The Salvadorean Government initiated a Conference of the five Republics of Central America, to determine the form and conditions to continue with the Central American Court of Justice even after the date of caducity of 1918 and after the ten years established by the Washington agreement. Mexico was invited to the projected conference because she took part in said conferences held at Washington.

The Government of the French Republic expressed its wishes that an Agent be appointed, with a permanent character, to inform on the results of the annual expositions held at Lyons, since such expositions have obtained so great a success. Mexico has promised to designate a representative.

The Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay invited our Government to send delegates to the "American Congress of the Boy," which was to take place at Montevideo between the 17th and the 24th of last March.

Unhappily, on account of the haste, it was not possible for our Government to send any delegates.

The Argentine Republic invited the neutral countries to meet at a Congress for the purpose of studying the attitude they should assume during the war and some other questions related thereto. Mexico was also invited as a neutral, and a Delegation was appointed headed by Señor Luis Cabrera, who left immediately for Argentine. This gentleman already under way, the Mexican Government received advice to the effect that the President of the Argentine Republic had resolved to postpone indefinitely the meeting of such Congress, and then the Mexican delegates made a tour of study through various South American republics. Our envoys were cordially welcome in all of them, which contradicts the malicious rumors made to circulate here denying the esteem and true friendship there is in Latin America towards Mexico.

In August, 1912, the Mexican Chargé d'Affairs and the Secretary of State of Argentine signed a Convention at Buenos Aires establishing an especial mail service for the diplomatic mail-bags. This Convention was not put in force until September 7th last year, when the Executive under my charge sent it to the Senate for its constitutional sanction, and having been approved, was immediately proclaimed.

On August 10th, 1917, a Convention was signed with the United States of America, re-establishing the Postal money order service between the two countries, the agreement having been published on

the 26th of November of the same year, once fulfilled the constitutional requirements.

A similar convention was signed with the United States for the establishment of an international parcel post service.

Mexico had celebrated with a majority of the Hispano-American republics conventions for exchange of official publications, the only countries not included being the United States of Brazil, Bolivia and Cuba.

The respective agreement has now been signed with Brazil on the 10th of last April.

The Mexican Consular Service has been duly looked after by the Executive, endeavoring to open and re-open consular offices of various classes in cities where it was deemed convenient to the interests of our country and our citizens.

To that purpose, during the time implied in this report honorary Consuls General were appointed at Montivedeo, Uruguay; La Paz, Bolivia; Christiania, Norway; Monaco; Lima, Perú; and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Instructions have been given to our Consuls on several matters of importance, as for instance: the free importation of merchandise destined to the "Committee of Food Articles;" the free importation of household goods granted to the Mexican laborers returning to Mexico; the form in which the Mexican consuls will have to guarantee their handling of fiscal funds, according to the prescriptions of the General Comptroller of the Nation; importation into Mexico of metal species; the form in which repatriations should be made when granted to the Mexicans who need the Government protection, and, in general, the regularization of all the office work in our Consulates.

Thirty-two new foreign consular representatives were accredited in several cities of the Republic, in the following manner: By exequatur, seven; by definitive authorization, five; by provisional authorization, twenty.

All our numerary consuls have been provided with their corresponding credentials or patent letters.

With the exception of our Consulates in Europe, on account of the war, all our offices in foreign countries have been sending regularly their reports on exports and imports from and to Mexico.

The country trading more actively with our Republic is the United States, and we still have some trade with France, Spain, England and Italy.

In the Scandinavian countries our diplomatic and consular representatives have tried to introduce some of our articles, especially raw products, which have already some demand.

Some 83 foreigners have acquired the Mexican citizenship. Three thousand and twenty-passports and 1084 permits to foreigners to acquire real estate in the country have been issued, according

to Article 27 of the Constitution, and 3197 documents have been legalized in our Foreign Office.

During the term implied in this report our Legations and Consulates collected an amount of \$3,329,780.65, in the following manner:

In Embassy at Washington and eleven Legations.	\$9,764.36
In forty-five numerary consulates.....	3,287,883.80
In twenty four honorary consulates.....	32,132.49

It is very satisfactory to me to inform you that these collections have kept the same proportion up to the present, being actually larger than the collections obtained prior to 1913, since the greater amount collected at that time was \$1,065,998.76, which means an increase of \$2,263,781.89.

Expenditures in all the branches of the Foreign Office, during the same period, hardly amount to \$1,200,000.00. Thus the Consular Service produces an excess of \$2,129,780.65 in behalf of the Nation.

The Executive is now studying some bills that shall timely be submitted to your consideration, tending to reorganize the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, the Organic Law of the Diplomatic Service, the Law on Foreigners and other matters connected therewith.

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